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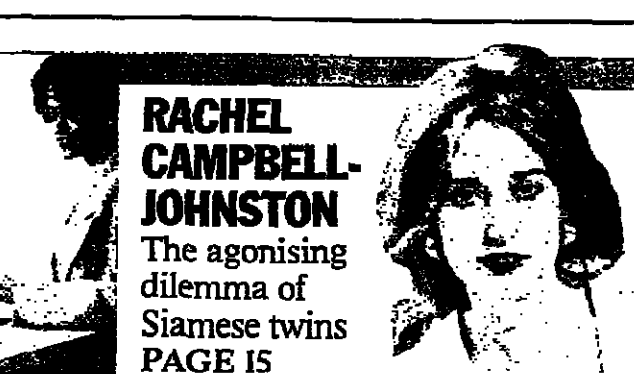
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Treasury ponders shrinking State US-style cuts in welfare under review

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

RADICAL proposals for privatising the welfare state and slashing spending on education are being examined by the Treasury as possible ways of cutting the size of the State in the next century.

Ideas imported from the Republicans in America and long favoured by Conservative rightwingers — include reducing benefits for teenage mothers, time-limiting benefits and extending private insurance to cover pensions, sickness and unemployment.

The Government is also considering reducing state support for the education of children over 16 and privatising the road system, according to a far-reaching document called *Strategic Considerations for the Treasury 2000 to 2005*, which has been obtained by *The Times*.

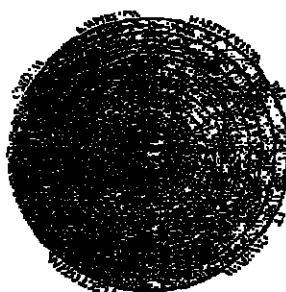
The document, in which officials consider a so-called Contract with Britain on the lines of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America, says that the rising demand for education beyond GCSE is unaffordable and "private returns to individuals and their employers exceed social returns".

The existing system could be replaced by a mixture of vouchers for sixth formers, extended loans for students and contributions from employers.

The paper also reveals that the Government is still actively considering going beyond existing experiments in privatising the roads, so that they are treated "as a utility rather than a public service", with the role of central and local government limited.

Considering proposals which "go beyond the Republican agenda", the document says that the idea of privatising contributory benefits covering insurable risks, such as retirement, incapacity and unemployment was "gaining support".

It refers to schemes in Germany allowing people to contract out of sickness benefits, in Chile where there is private insurance for all pension provision and in Singa-



The document's cover: A look into the future

pore where there are compulsory savings towards a range of welfare provisions.

The document, examining how the Treasury might respond to different policy demands over the next five to ten years, was written early this year by a group of senior officials reporting to Sir Terence Burns, the Permanent Secretary.

As well as looking at how the Treasury might be affected if a future government demanded a smaller State, it also carried out a detailed study of how to manage public spending if there were no radical changes in the State's responsibilities.

Although the paper makes plain that it is not considering explicitly how a future Labour government might tackle the tasks of the new millennium, it does examine policy options that have more in common with Labour's approach.

But the disclosure that the Treasury had considered the Republican agenda provoked fury from Labour last night. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor who will raise the report in today's Commons debate on the economy, said: "This plan would amount to nothing more than the demolition of Britain's welfare state."

The Chancellor must explain why, behind closed doors without being honest about their intentions, the Treasury have been considering extreme right-wing American ideas for the wholesale privatisation of the welfare state and its replacement by private insurance, even for the

basic state provision. This insight into Tory fifth-term thinking is not just a lurch, but a stampede to the Right."

The document confirms predictions that Britain will slip from the "first division" of world economies in the next 20 years. It predicts that it will have been overtaken by India, Brazil, Indonesia and Thailand by 2015, with Mexico and South Korea close behind — and even suggests that at some point ministers will have to decide whether national economic interests are best served by "hitching itself" so closely to European Union markets that it jeopardises its prospects with the "tiger" economies of the Far East.

Mr Brown said last night that the report showed that the Government was prepared to see Britain fall behind Thailand and Brazil because of their policies without being prepared to tackle the causes of decline but simply to manage it.

The officials go on to describe the advent of a single European currency as the biggest challenge facing the Treasury, and say that early British entry would be the best option for the City. But the paper adds: "City interests are unlikely to drive this policy", and concludes that there is less than a 50 per cent chance of Britain joining in 1999 — whoever is in power.

The leak of the report will embarrass the Government. But the authors will also have red faces over its disclosure that they seem less than happy about the drive towards open government. They make plain that they fully expect soon to be required to publish not only their economic conclusions but the advice on which they are based. "We would not be able to rewrite or edit papers or filter files as now," they write.

Mr Brown said that the revelation that the Treasury had "filleted" files would outrage fair-minded people.

Retrenchment plans, page 8
Leading article, page 17



The Princess of Wales at the Royal Marsden Hospital which she will continue to back after losing her HRH title

Charities fear drop in support after Princess resigns as patron

By Emma Wilkins

THE Princess of Wales left nearly 100 British and Commonwealth charities shocked and disappointed yesterday when she resigned as their patron.

In the first move towards her new life as a semi-detached member of the Royal Family, the Princess has cut her workload to just six charities of her own choice. The 93 rejected charities were informed of the Princess's decision in a typed letter from Kensington Palace dated July 15 — the day the first stage of the royal divorce proceedings were concluded.

The Princess, who personally addressed and signed each letter, wrote: "It has been a great privilege for me to serve as your patron and it has always been my wish that I should do so wholeheartedly and to the best of my ability. Therefore it is with great sadness that I write to you in

order to explain matters which have now become apparent.

"As you know, my personal circumstances, in particular my marriage to The Prince of Wales, have been the subject of detailed conjecture in recent months, and this will soon be formalised in the normal legal manner."

"Although I am embarking upon the future with hope, I also do so with some trepidation since there are a number

of matters which I shall need to resolve. It is for this reason that I am writing in order to resign my current role as patron with you. As I seek to reorganise my life, it will not be possible for me to provide you with the level of commitment that I believe you deserve. I feel that someone else in the Royal Family may now be better suited to support your tremendous endeavours."

"I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the many opportunities that you have provided me with for serving the people of this country. I will always retain a keen interest in everything that you do and trust that we shall have reason for our paths to cross in the not too distant future."

Her resignation has left at least one charity fearing that a new £25 million appeal for a residential home for blind children could be in jeopardy.

Details will be announced in the autumn of the Princess's expanded role with the

Centrepoint homeless charity, the National Aids Trust, the Leprosy Mission which has links with Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and the English National Ballet. She also remains president of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and the Royal Marsden Hospital, which specialises in cancer research and treatment.

Charities count cost, page 5
Letters, page 17



Beef deal doubts

The safety of British beef by-products was thrown into question again when the European Commission reported scientific doubts about the conditions under which Britain is to be allowed to resume exports after a hard-fought agreement last month. Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, said that "the issue of gelatine" was to be re-examined. Page 10

MPs approve sale of forces' homes

By James Landale, Political Reporter

MICHAEL PORTILLO yesterday averted a Tory backbench rebellion over the planned sale of the armed forces' married quarters by offering MPs a range of concessions.

The Commons victory came despite the publication yesterday of a report by the Tory-dominated Defence select committee criticising the Defence Secretary for the way the sale has been handled.

MPs approved a Labour motion calling for the sale to be delayed for further consultation. Ministers hope to raise up to £2 billion by selling and then renting back some 58,000 army homes to one large corporate developer. Final bids must be in by the end of July and the sale is expected to go ahead in mid-August.

The move prompted widespread opposition from Tory MPs and the armed forces who feared it would harm

morale by breaking up "patches" where service families live and provide support for each other. Mr Portillo told MPs he had taken on board these fears and announced three concessions:

□ Service families would be consulted if a developer wanted to move them from one site to another. Although the families could not veto the move, the Government would take their views into account before deciding if the developer had met very strict criteria for the move. This has been one of the main concerns of service families.

□ The Government would ensure that schools were near to the new site and also of good quality.

□ Developers would have to give four years' notice, instead of the original two, if they wanted to redevelop a site, after 25 years. This would give the Ministry of Defence more time to find new homes.

Shares dive after selling on Wall St

By Janet Bush

LONDON shares registered their biggest drop for more than two years yesterday as a selling contagion swept over the Atlantic from Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 66 lower at 3,632.3, after Wall Street slumped by 161 points on Monday.

New York investors were running scared after brokers said that shares that have enjoyed a record-breaking run this year were now overvalued. They were also worried about possible American interest rate rises.

Wall Street seemed to stabilise briefly yesterday, but by lunchtime the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down another 90 points.

In London, there was concern about figures showing that the Government borrowed £3.6 billion more than it received in taxes last month.

George warning, page 25

Oxford given £20m by Arab magnate

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

A MYSTERIOUS Middle-Eastern businessman, whose racehorses have won two of this year's classics, yesterday announced a £20 million gift to Oxford University to found a new business school.

Wafic Said, a financier and construction magnate, is a friend of Baroness Thatcher and the Saudi royal family. He helped British Aerospace clinch a £20 billion arms contract with Saudi Arabia, although he insists that he has never been an arms dealer and took no commission.

In an unusual step, Dr Peter North, the university Vice-Chancellor, wrote to all dons yesterday, telling them of the scheme. The donation has been approved by Oxford's ethics committee, but Mr Said's business background is likely to attract criticism in the university.

With many dons already away from the city on vacation, the timing of the announcement minimised any immediate risk of opposition.

The university is almost half way to raising another £20 million to staff the school, which will occupy land presently used as playing fields.

Mr Said never completed a degree, although his father founded Syria's first university in Damascus. But his son Khaled has just graduated from Oxford after studying law at Balliol College.

The school, which will cater eventually for 500 students, aims to compete with the top American and European institutions and will, subject to planning permission, open in the 1998-99 academic year. □ Lord Nuffield's £3 million gift to establish medical sciences in the 1930s, worth about £77 million at today's prices, is considered Oxford's most valuable donation in modern times.

Profile, page 2

School Fees and Further Education Costs

Planning for independence

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If you want the answer to an easy question, don't ask a Labour MP

Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbyshire NE) has just stumbled upon an important truth. It came in an envelope addressed to him by mistake: a note from a minister in the Department of Trade and Industry.

"Dear Colleague, I should be most grateful if you could spare the time to attend a brief discussion with DTI Ministers at 2.15 on Wednesday, July 17. Your contribution to DTI Question Time at 2.30 is much appreciated, and this will be an opportunity to

ensure that the resultant exchanges are, as far as possible, beneficial to all concerned. The meeting will be held in the Large Ministerial Conference Room. I look forward to seeing you there. Yours ever, Simon Coombs."



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

frontbencher himself would never contact you. Instead, his parliamentary private secretary would just happen to join the queue for toast in the Members' tearoom. After some polite chat about the weather, he would say: "Oh, by the way, I see you're in line for a question to my boss about widget production. Any

special concerns you might be raising? He likes to do his homework, you know." "Yes," one would reply. "This new tax on widget exports. It's killing a factory in my constituency."

"Ah," he would say, followed by a long pause. "Tricky. You may not know that my boss is fighting very hard for widget manufacturing, behind the scenes. Now, if you asked him for a dividend now — well, he couldn't. Counterproductive, you see — harden things up just when we're trying to soften."

"Hm." "But if you could ask him for the good news on widgets — well, an optimistic note would make his life — and yours — easier."

"I don't feel optimistic." "Come and have a drink with him after the 7pm vote tonight, and tell him so privately. He'd appreciate that. He really does rate you, you know. Was saying so only this morning. 'That Parris is a good man to have on side,' he told me. 'Shamefully overlooked...'"

One was left feeling like a complete heel unless one co-operated. Now, it seems, it's done in a more military style. Either way, it never works. Scripted exchanges sound like scripted exchanges. At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday (just before Harry Barnes

Bitter exchanges at Stormont replace violence on streets

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 500 troops were withdrawn from Northern Ireland yesterday in a clear signal from the RUC and the Army that they believe the security crisis has abated.

But as soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment flew home last night, the political fall-out from last week's violence worsened as politicians traded recriminations at the multi-party talks at Stormont.

The SDLP and the Alliance Party called on George Mitchell, chairman of the talks, to review the Ulster Unionists' participation after the party allegedly stoked up last week's trouble.

John Major pleaded with loyalist terrorists to back away from a tit-for-tat campaign of violence in response to the bomb that virtually destroyed a hotel in Enniskillen.

He reacted to Unionist threats of increased violence by saying that the weekend bombing must not "relaunch the cycle of violence" in Northern Ireland and he praised loyalists for their past restraint.

Mr Major said: "I particularly welcome the restraint that has continually been

shown by the loyalist groups and I hope very much they will continue to show that restraint in the future."

John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, will hold talks with Mr Major in Downing Street this afternoon. The MP for Foyle will be joined by his three parliamentary colleagues for his first meeting with the Prime Minister since last week's stand-off at Drumcree.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, proposed that Mr Major should hold a joint meeting with the leaders of the four main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. This would include Mr Trimble, Mr Hume, the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists and John Alderdice, the Alliance leader.

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, said Mr Trimble had flouted the Mitchell principles of non-violence by supporting the loyalist protest at Drumcree. Mr Mallon also highlighted a meeting Mr Trimble held at Drumcree at the height of the crisis with Billy Wright, a former Ulster Volunteer Force prisoner who has links with

paramilitaries in the Mid-Ulster area.

John Alderdice, the Alliance leader, also criticised Mr Trimble. He said: "Anyone who looked at the television pictures of the last week can only have seen force and the threat of the use of force and can only have seen the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party leading the charge."

Mr Trimble, whose Upper Bann constituency includes Drumcree, vehemently rejected the allegations: "We are opposed to the use of force and have called on people to maintain their ceasefire. We followed up those words with practical action on the streets at considerable inconvenience to ourselves to try to maintain the peace."

It is understood that Mr Trimble's comments referred to a meeting he had with Mr Wright last Wednesday at Drumcree. A senior Ulster Unionist source said that Mr Trimble called on Mr Wright to use his influence to maintain the loyalist ceasefire and to ensure that a bulldozer, which had been driven to Drumcree by loyalists, was not used to break through police lines.

A sign of hope came as Sir Patrick Mayhew and Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, tried to mend fences in a half-hour meeting. Sir Patrick reacted furiously last week when the Irish Government criticised the RUC for allowing Orangemen to march along the nationalist Garvaghy Road in Portadown to defuse the five-day stand-off.

A senior Irish source said that last night's talks, which will be followed up by a full Anglo-Irish Conference in London tomorrow, were friendly. The source said: "They want to put this back on the rails because the alternative is horrendous."

Half of the 1,000 troops flown in last week will remain in Northern Ireland, underlining the RUC's fear that there is still a threat of terrorism. The move leaves 18,000 troops in Northern Ireland, including the 1st Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Simon Jenkins, page 16



Wafic Said, who put aside his cherished privacy to announce the £20 million gift

Affection for Britain lures financier into limelight

By BILL FROST

FABULOUS wealth and the discretion demanded by a network of the world's most influential contacts have fostered Wafic Said's passion for privacy.

The Syrian-born financier normally shuns the limelight. So he must have surprised even himself by agreeing to appear at yesterday's press conference to announce his £20 million gift to Oxford University.

His world of discreet nods and whispered confidences eschews intrusion. Too many deals could be put in jeopardy, too many reputations risked. Mr Said, now a Saudi citizen, is becoming the most public figure since Howard Hughes. He employs Sir Tim Bell, the doyen of British public relations, to keep his name out of the media.

After a particularly glowing profile in one national newspaper, the journalist responsible was told by Mr Said's mother that the subject of the hagiography was displeased. "Whether you write good or bad things about him, he despises it all," she said.

He first came to prominence in 1992 during a Commons Select Committee hearing on the "Iraqi Supergun" affair when he was said to be the British Aerospace agent in Saudi Arabia who had helped secure "the weapons sale of the century" for this country.

The £20 billion Al Yama-

mah deal, signed by Baroness Thatcher while Prime Minister, was alleged to have given her son Mark a "slice of the action". Mr Said himself was to say later that he had "never even sold a penknife". However, there is no question about his friendship with the Thatchers and their fondness for him.

Mr Said was born rich and studied in Beirut before coming to London in 1959 to take up a place at the Institute of Bankers. At a coffee shop in Bayswater he was in make friends with two Saudi princes — Bandar and Khalid, sons of Prince Sultan, a brother of King Fahd and soon to become the Minister of Defence.

Tragedy was to bring Mr Said close to Prince Sultan and guarantee his place on the world's financial stage. His son drowned when he came to the defence minister's home to be sworn in as a Saudi Arabian citizen in 1981.

By ancient tradition, the Saudi royal family was then bound to the bereaved father. The tragedy came at a time when they were major spenders in the world defence market. The relationship was to be Mr Said's passport to financial backing that only petrodollars can give. It opened the door to the West's political leaders too.

Married 25 years ago to Rosemary, a Briton, Mr Said has developed an ardent passion for British traditions and sportsmanship. Although now based in Monaco with homes in Paris, Marbella and Riyadh, he is said to have fallen in love with England.

An artist's impression of the Oxford Business School

NEWS IN BRIEF

One in three CSA judgments is wrong

Absent fathers owe £900 million to the mothers caring for their children, most of which will never be recovered, according to the official auditor's report on the Child Support Agency. One in three of its maintenance assessments is wrong by as much as £30 a week.

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, accepts that the agency is improving: last year every second assessment was wrong. Errors included the use of insufficient or out-of-date information, arithmetical mistakes, the use of incorrect mortgage rates or making too much allowance for self-employed fathers' expenses.

For the second year running Sir John has refused to accept that the accounts of the agency are accurate. He said there was insufficient information to determine the financial impact of incorrect maintenance assessments.

Gun lobby seeks funds

The gun lobby in Britain is urging gun clubs and shooters to give financial support for a drive to counter mounting public pressure for a ban on the private ownership of handguns and to pay for legal representation at the Dunblane inquiry. A spokesman for the British Shooting Sports Council declined to say how much cash had been raised so far. He denied a suggestion from the anti-gun lobby that the campaign required £500,000.

Tube talks continue

Rail union officials and executives from London Underground were locked in talks at the conciliation service Acas last night in a final attempt to avert tomorrow's Tube strike. The one-day walkout by drivers from the Aslef and Rail Maritime and Transport unions is expected to bring virtually all Underground services to a halt from midnight tonight. The unions are in dispute over a promised one hour cut in the working week.

Scots get a say on stone

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is to give the public a say on where the Stone of Scone will be housed when it returns to Scotland. Submissions will be accepted until August 16. The Government yesterday released a secret file it claims authenticates the stone, based on X-rays made in the 1970s. There was speculation that a fake may have been returned to London after the stone's theft from Westminster Abbey in 1950.

Castle attacks Labour

Baroness Castle of Blackburn launched a pamphlet attacking Labour's pensions policy yesterday. The former Labour Social Services Minister, now 85, challenged the party leadership to reverse a policy U-turn and keep basic state pensions rising in line with earnings. The party recently hinted that state pensions should rise only with inflation, a much lower increase. She criticised its ruling body, the National Executive Committee, as being "supine".

Poacher sparks alert

A security review has been ordered at the official Dublin residence of the Irish President Mary Robinson after she discovered a poacher in the grounds. President Robinson and her husband Nicholas spotted the 19-year-old intruder fishing in a pond at Aras an Uachtairain in Phoenix Park while on a stroll. She personally escorted him off the premises. Three weeks ago another man got over the perimeter fence and was found in the grounds.

Sailor electrocuted

A British sailor was killed when his yacht clipped electricity lines in the Philippines, sending 62,000 volts through his body. A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Graham Aspery, 35, of Hayling Island, Hampshire, at an inquest in Portsmouth. The yacht was blown apart as the current passed down the mast but only two small burns were visible on Mr Aspery: on his right hand where the power entered his body and on his left foot where it left.

New Radio 4 controller

James Boyle, the head of Radio Scotland, has been appointed the controller of Radio 4. He will take up the post in early autumn when Michael Green steps down. Mr Boyle joined the BBC in 1975 and became head of Radio Scotland in 1992. He said: "I know the passion Radio 4 inspires in its audience and programme makers and I will listen to their concerns in working to maintain the intelligence and interest that pervade its programmes."

Manchester seeks redesign plans

By KATE ALDERSON

ARCHITECTS are being invited today to submit plans for the rebuilding of Manchester city centre which was destroyed by an IRA bomb last month.

The City Centre Task Force, set up with European and government funding, will announce details of the International Design Competition at Manchester Town Hall. The Task Force, a partnership of business, council and government representatives, is offering a £50,000 prize to the competition winner.

Richard Leese, Labour leader of the city council, said Manchester had been horrifically damaged by the bomb. "We have an opportunity to replace a city centre, the first time such an opportunity has existed since after the war in

this country." The redesign should allow the medieval district and the northern part of the city, cut off by the Arndale Centre, to be reintegrated, he said. It would also create more pedestrian-only spaces and reintroduce the River Irwell into city life.

More than 100,000 square feet of retail and office space was devastated by the bomb on June 15. The competition winner will be announced in November.

Police teams stripped the interior of two south London houses used by a suspected IRA active service unit yesterday as seven men continued to be questioned by anti-terrorist branch detectives. Detectives are also hunting for a store of up to 180 kilograms of Semtex.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

Bottomley sidelined in Tories' summer campaign

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY and Douglas Hogg have been sidelined by the Tory high command in Cabinet infighting over who should lead a summer campaign against Labour. Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman who advocated their dismissal in a reshuffle, has succeeded in limiting their media appearances in a forthcoming offensive.

Mrs Bottomley, the Heritage Sec-

retary, is furious that she has been given shared responsibility for the regions with Roger Freeman, out of the national spotlight. Mr Hogg will not feature at all. Hard-hitting ministers of state, such as Ann Widdecombe, will have higher profiles.

Agreement on a series of Central Office committees in spearhead the fightback was expected at last week's political Cabinet meeting, which rubber-stamped the "New Labour, new danger" campaign. But the

process was delayed by a failure before the Cabinet meeting to agree on which ministers should serve on which committees.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will chair a committee to examine Labour's economic proposals. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, will cover the constitution. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will lead on law and order. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, will chair a committee to expose splits in the Labour Party. Ann Widdecombe, the

Home Office minister, will act as his deputy.

One of Mr Portillo's supporters said last night: "Membership has not been finalised. He has to tread carefully. His remit extends into other ministers' responsibilities."

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will also play a key role in the summer campaign. A senior Central Office aide said: "We view the regions as a very important dimension of our presentation over the coming months. It will

be a great test for Mrs Bottomley's skills." The Heritage Secretary does not share the opinion. She believes she has been deliberately shunted into the sidelines by Dr Mawhinney, the party chairman. One party source said: "She is absolutely furious at being left out. They are trying to keep her off the television."

Yesterday Dr Mawhinney unveiled a poster bearing the slogan "Labour's Union Jack" over a white flag, with the message: "New Labour. No Britain."

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Botham du
QC's bound
in court att



Day 13 arrested in
murder case

Carman: 'Are you a truthful man?' Botham: 'We're not all saints. I once broke a window'

Botham ducks QC's bouncers in court attack

BY JOANNA BALE AND TIM JONES

IAN BOTHAM underwent an hour of searching cross-questioning by George Carman, QC, the leading libel lawyer, in the High Court yesterday as he was challenged over whether he told the truth.

On the second day of his libel action against Imran Khan, the former England cricket captain stood defensively in the dock with his arms crossed as Mr Carman, representing Imran, launched his attack. Botham, who with his former colleague, Allan Lamb, is suing the former Pakistan captain for libel, was asked by Mr Carman: "Are you a truthful man?"

Botham: "Yes sir, I'd like to think so."

Mr Carman: "Always?" Botham: "As often as you can be. We are not all saints. I once broke a window at school — we all do something wrong."

Earlier Botham had glared at Imran as the two clashed over Imran's review of his autobiography, in which he said the real hero was Botham's wife, Kathy. In the exchange, which occurred as Botham stood in the witness box only yards from where Imran was sitting with his wife, Jemima, the first occasion on which the two men had acknowledged each other's presence during the hearing — Botham told him his marriage was very successful.

Botham is suing Imran for libel over an article in *The Sun* in which he said that illegal ball tampering was common among fast bowlers.

Botham and Lamb are also suing the former Pakistan captain over an article in *India Today* magazine in which Imran allegedly accused them of racism, of being uneducated and of lacking class and upbringing.

Mr Carman asked Botham why he did not pursue libel actions against two Sunday newspapers which alleged that he had taken drugs and indulged in extra-marital sex during cricket tours of New Zealand and the West Indies.

Botham said that he had not wanted to "risk everything" he had worked for by taking on Sunday newspapers with huge resources. Botham said he was well aware of an article in the *News of the World* in 1986 which alleged he had sex with Miss Barbados and had

taken cocaine with her during a tour of the West Indies. Mr Carman put it to Botham that the article had caused "great personal distress in your relationship with your wife."

Botham, whose wife Kathy was in court, replied: "Yes, it caused her distress until I spoke to her about it. I told her that it was untrue, and she understood."

Mr Carman asked him why he had dropped legal action against British newspapers, but had decided to sue Imran on the basis of something published in *India Today*.

Botham answered: "When I am accused of cheating, or of being a racist, I feel strongly

conference or spoke to a large group of journalists to say publicly that you had never taken marijuana or cocaine in your life."

Mr Carman added: "That was a lie, wasn't it?" Botham denied that he had lied, saying: "No, because I had to take legal advice, and when confronted by journalists you tend to freeze."

Mr Carman: "It was a lie, wasn't it?" Botham: "Yes, sir."

Mr Carman mentioned Botham's prosecution in 1986 for possession of marijuana after police raided his home, then moved on to a joke Botham had made about Pakistan during a radio interview which caused him to be suspended and fined £1,000 by the English cricket authorities.

Mr Carman said: "What you said about Pakistan was that it was where you would like to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid."

Botham replied: "No, I said for two weeks."

When the laughter died down Mr Carman went on: "That was a disgracefully offensive observation to the people and cricketers of Pakistan, wasn't it?"

Botham replied that he had meant it as a light-hearted "mother-in-law joke."

Mr Carman: "You don't like Pakistan?"

Botham: "Why would I not like it? I have no objection to playing there. I've been there three times and I have a lot of friends there."

Botham had earlier told how he demanded an apology after Imran had written a cutting review of his autobiography in which he said: "By the time I had finished the autobiography, I was in no doubt as to who the real hero of the book is. It is Botham's wife, Kathy. I wish her all the luck for the remainder of her marriage."

Turning his gaze directly at Imran, Botham said: "I thought it was an extremely arrogant remark and I would like to inform Imran that my wife and I have an extremely successful marriage, thank you."

In the review two years ago in *The Sunday Times*, Imran had described the autobiography as "a sad book that displays his bitterness". The case continues.

Mr Carman put it to Botham that, "you held a press

about that. I feel that a 20-year career has been tarnished, and that is why I pursued this."

He also agreed he had not sued Ian Chappell, the former Australian captain, who had called him "a habitual liar", and claimed Botham had attacked him with a beer glass. To laughter, Botham replied: "No, sir. He's an Australian. I didn't take any notice of it."

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Ian Botham and his wife, Kathy, arriving at the High Court, where the cricketer spent yesterday fielding questions about ball tampering

Dogged Beefy plays a straight bat to legal googlies in marathon innings

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SOME juries have to endure the Maxwell trial, or the endless McDonald's. Others get to watch cricket.

The seven men and five women in court 13 of the High Court were treated to a sparkling innings yesterday as Ian Botham, on the second day of his libel action against Imran Khan, faced the devastating reverse swing bowling of George Carman, QC. Mr Carman does not take prisoners; he takes wickets.

Court 13 is in dire need of a new south stand; a capacity crowd filled the wholly inadequate public gallery and many were left disappointed outside. Those inside enjoyed a measure of participation in the games: judge, counsel, jury and key witness all had shining and untarnished new balls to play with, and shortly before lunch play stopped so that they could watch some old Test match clips showing Botham possibly, or possibly not, doing something to a ball. They enjoyed it so much they asked to see it again, with the television a bit closer.

Botham, at the wicket all day, had an easy start to his innings in the witness box, juggling the new ball

from hand to hand in spare moments, and effortlessly stonewalling the medium-paced bowling of his own QC, Charles Gray. Dressed in blue blazer and off-white flannels, he managed to score the occasional single, as when he explained that he had abandoned plans in the 1980s to take a multiracial team to South Africa not because he was being insufficiently paid, but because he was insulted by the South African's offer to make Vy Richards an "honorary white" so that he and Botham could dine in the same restaurant.

He scored another easy two when asked what he thought of an article by Imran in *The Sunday Times* suggesting that the real hero was his wife for putting up with him. "It was extremely arrogant, and I would like to inform you that we have an extremely successful marriage, thank you." Played with a straight bat, in front of strawberry-blond wife spectating in the front row.

Botham played all accusations of ball-tampering straight back down the pitch. Yes, he did throw the new ball to the wicketkeeper, but not for him to rough up one side with his gloves, merely to wipe off the sweat that had

gathered after being in a cellophane bag in the umpire's pocket. The jury passed a note up to the judge. Could they see some old balls? Mr Carman said: "I have taken the precaution of bringing with me some old balls — er, used balls."

But then after the lunch interval, Mr Carman took his position at the bowler's end for six overs of cross-examination. The deliveries came at Botham from unexpected directions.

What about the marijuana, cocaine and women in New Zealand? What about sex with Miss Barbados? What about the dropping of libel actions against *The Mail on Sunday* and the *News of the World*? Mr Gray was on his feet appealing to the umpire, Mr Justice French, that Miss Barbados was a clear no-ball, but the judge allowed the questioning to proceed. Botham had to give up stonewalling and fling his bat about a bit. Are you a truthful man, Mr Botham? I think so, sir, although I may have broken a window at school. You told lies to journalists, Mr Botham. You tend to panic when faced with journalists, sir.

But Botham got in two quick singles, one when Mr Carman recalled that the cricketer's home had

been raided and drugs found. The witness retorted: "0.19 of a gram of marijuana; I remember it well." He got the other when asked why he was continuing his libel action against the magazine *India Today*, while he had once dropped one against the *News of the World*, which had an infinitely larger circulation. "Not in Asia, I wouldn't have thought." Appreciative laughter from the crowd.

Mr Gray was on his feet again, appealing once more to the umpire against muck-raking. Mr Carman was again allowed to continue.

But instead of pursuing Miss Barbados, Mr Carman produced what appeared to be a paper bag of apples. It was in fact the old balls the jury had asked for. He handed them to the judge, who passed them to the jury, who fondled them like exotic worry beads.

"I am waiting for Mr Carman to say, 'Can I have my ball back?'" the judge interjected, barely suppressing a laugh. Clearly delighted with his own small shaft of wit, the umpire declared stumps drawn for the day. England's innings continues today when Mr Carman will resume the bowling for Pakistan.

Boy, 13, arrested in Jade murder case

BY ADAM FRESCO

A BOY aged 13 was arrested yesterday by police investigating the murder of the schoolgirl Jade Matthews.

He spent the day at an undisclosed police station on Merseyside being questioned about his movements on July 5, the day that Jade, 9, was found battered to death on a railway siding.

Police would not say if he was the same 13-year-old who was arrested and held for 24 hours last week before being released without charge. Two 17-year-old youths and Jade's natural father were also arrested last week and later released.

Jade disappeared after going out to play near her home in Bootle about 4pm on

the Sunday. Hundreds of neighbours and friends joined police that night in a search for her. Her body was discovered by a police dog handler a mile and a half away early next morning. She had been battered to death with part of a wooden window frame.

Several witnesses have spoken of seeing Jade on July 7 with a 13-year-old boy with a mountain bike. They are among dozens who have come forward in response to appeals for help by police and Jade's mother and stepfather, Denise, 31, and Stephen, 37.

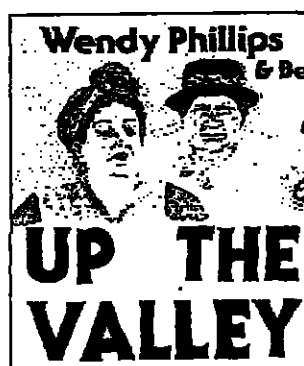
A mobile police station set up for five hours close to the murder scene a week after the crime brought more than 60 fresh calls.

Cleaner is swept away to star in Hollywood

BY PETER FOSTER

A SCHOOL cleaning lady is going to Hollywood, to star in a film about a woman who wins a trip to Hollywood. Film-makers believe their discovery, Wendy Phillips, 59, has the qualities of great Ealing comedy actresses.

Mrs Phillips, a cleaner for 26 years at Cwm Garw Primary in Pontycymer, Mid Glamorgan, will play a Welsh woman named Ethel in *Into the Wood*. The film involves the heroine meeting stars and becoming so enchanted that she decides to stay. Yesterday the producer was in America trying to negotiate cameos



Wendy Phillips and a poster for her previous film

from Tony Curtis and Sir Anthony Hopkins.

Like Ethel, Mrs Phillips is going to America for the first time. She will stay in Malibu for eight days with her husband, David, 65, a retired miner, but has no thoughts of giving up her £40-a-week job. She said: "I'm not going to let all this go to my head. One person asked to keep my overalls when I'm famous."

She was discovered



through a mutual friend by Sara Sugarman, director of *Into the Wood*, and acted in a Channel 4 play *The Village* and in Sugarman's last film *Up the Valley*, an award-winner at the Welsh International Film Festival. She will be paid a £15 daily allowance and a share of profits. Ms Sugarman said: "Wendy is a natural. She has qualities of actresses like Margaret Rutherford and Irene Handl."

MP blows Pig and Whistle on 'phoney' pub names

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN has been launched by a Tory MP to prevent the Dog and Duck and the Pig and Whistle from becoming endangered species.

Nicholas Winterton has joined forces with the Campaign for Real Ale to try to protect traditional pub names. He tabled a Commons motion yesterday urging the Government to ensure that the names of long-established public houses cannot be changed without planning permission.

The call to arms went up when Mr Winterton discovered that the 200-year-old Bull's Head, in the centre of his Macclesfield constituency in Cheshire, is to be renamed the Pig and Truffle. The MP,

who has hosted receptions for the Campaign for Real Ale on the Commons terrace, said last night: "This is outrageous. This pub is a point of identity which has been known by its existing name for hundreds of years."

Mr Winterton, who is backed by his local borough council, is seeking to stop breweries giving their pubs contrived names such as the Slug and Salad, the Goose and Granite, Scruffy Murphy's and the Hare and Billet.

The names he believes are under threat include the Bag o' Nails (corruption of Bacchanals), the Goat and Compasses (God Encompasses Us), the Pig and Whistle (a corruption

of wassail), the Ship and Shovel (Sir Cloudsley Shovel, an admiral in Queen Anne's reign), and The Salutation (a reference to the Angel Gabriel saluting the Virgin Mary).

Mr Winterton said: "In many cases, the names of pubs represent historical events and political persuasions in years gone by. All this could disappear unless we act now."

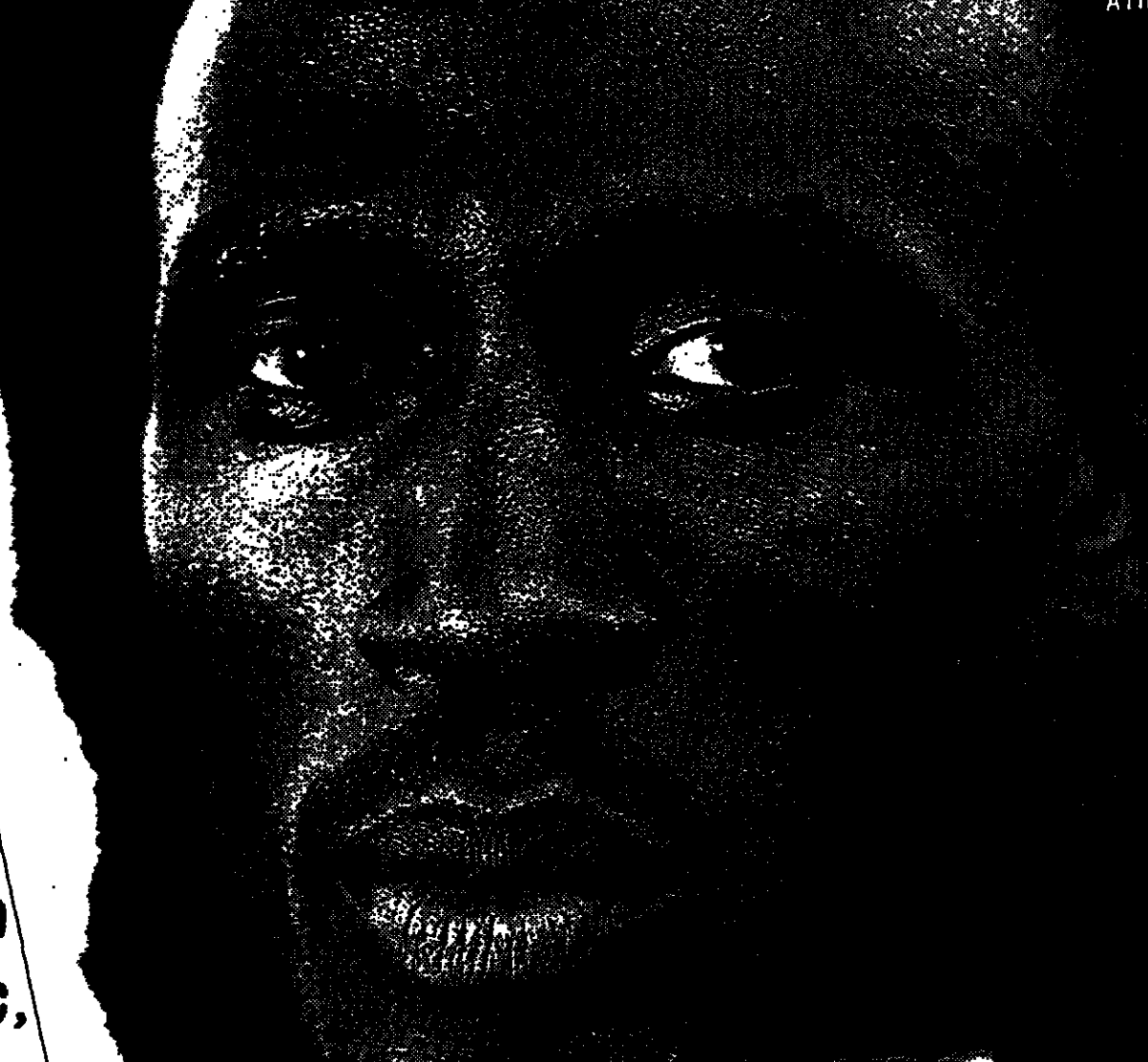
Stephen Cox, campaigns manager for the Campaign for Real Ale, said: "It's not only the names which are changing for the worse. It is the character of the pubs. We support anything which will preserve the identity of the traditional British pub."

...UP A GEAR."

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ATHLETE.

They've been able to cheer him as he has gone on one victorious lap of honour after another.

They've seen him draped in the Union Jack and it has given them a sense of pride in being British.

He's given them rare and unique moments they'll remember for ever.

For those who would discriminate against him because they don't like the colour of his skin?

Well we can only assume they found these historic and memorable moments to be non-events.

Now, although sport is just one aspect of life in this country, it would appear to us that for every aspect you can possibly think of, you have these two groups of people viewing things with their own particular perspective.

And it seems to us that it's always the same individuals who choose to discriminate who are the ones missing out on so much.

How? Why? Well, anyone with a bit of common sense would agree that the more choice you have in life, the more interesting and fulfilling life inevitably is.

And it's ethnic diversity that gives that choice, whether it's in sport, music, business, food or culture.

People who don't discriminate embrace that choice and invariably, people who do discriminate, lose out.

People who don't discriminate accept that ethnic minorities are part of the fabric of British life, whether they're recent immigrants or from families who've been living in this country for many generations.

They realise that without the diversity that now exists, choice for all of us would be incredibly limited.

At the Commission for Racial Equality, we think the same way, that's why we're promoting Roots of the Future.

Roots Of The Future is an exciting initiative that we hope will reach just about everyone in Britain.

The aim is to show that an ethnically diverse Britain is a much better Britain. To illustrate that, despite discrimination and abuse, many people from all kinds of ethnic backgrounds are, despite the odds, succeeding in all walks of life.

We want the Roots Of The Future initiative to concentrate attention on the most positive aspects

of a multi-racial society.

We want people to learn about and understand other cultures and to realise and accept that different isn't better or worse - it's equal.

A travelling exhibition will reach the hundreds of thousands of people who visit arts and museum venues around the country. At the same time a colourful and informative book also called Roots Of The Future will be launched.

Amongst other things, the book charts the history of people who came to Britain from all over the world. How they survived, contributed, and how they continue to contribute, to our economic, cultural and social development and growth.



For details of how to get hold of a copy of the book *Roots Of The Future* please call 0181 986-4854, or for any other aspect of the initiative call the CRE on 0171 932-5207.



COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

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THE NEW YORK
DIRECTORY
Charities and
of losing
Queen of



Diana effect was worth millions

Charities count cost of losing their Queen of Hearts

By Emma Wilkins and Kathryn Knight

FROM Help the Aged to the English Women's Indoor Bowling Association, the charitable world was in turmoil yesterday after the Princess of Wales's decision to renounce her patronage of 93 causes.

Officials at the Royal School for the Blind were particularly upset. They are launching a £2.25 million appeal next month, and must now rethink their strategy. The question of a replacement patron, possibly Prince Edward, will top the agenda at a trustees meeting tomorrow.

David Ireland, a spokesman, said he was puzzled by the Princess's withdrawal from so many charities, as it appeared to conflict with her publicly-stated desire to be a "Queen of Hearts".

The charity, based at Leatherhead, Surrey, recently changed its name to Seabird, and was among the first to secure the Princess's patronage in February 1982. The new appeal is to raise money to build the first home in Britain for Juvenile Batten's Disease, a genetically-inherited condition which leads to blindness and paralysis.

"We are bitterly disappointed," Mr Ireland said. "It's very unfortunate timing. We need a well-known name. It is a very sad day for us and the other charities."

"She does such a lot of good work through her magnetic quality. It has certainly been to our benefit. Most of her work with us was in the background, but she made two visits to our offices and always kept in touch. Just having her there as a figurehead was a comfort factor for us."

"At the offices of Turning Point, the drugs and alcohol dependency charity which the Princess joined as patron a decade ago, Ron Alexander said: "It's a big blow for us. She used to visit us once a month, and she gave private



Yeo: understood need to make fresh start

dinners to help raise our profile. It's been magic and we are very disappointed."

"We have got to rethink the whole business of who will be patron, but I think it will be another royal. She is certainly a megastar. The others are in a bit of a different league."

The Princess's support for Help the Aged over ten years helped to quadruple its income, according to John Mayo, its director-general. He was saddened by the decision but grateful for her past support.

At the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, its chief executive Diane Yeo said: "I was surprised because the Princess had given me a private indication that she wanted to stay with her cancer charities. I can understand her reasons because when you get divorced, you want to make as fresh a start as possible. I just hope we can find another member of the Royal Family who wants to join us."

Mrs Yeo, whose husband Tim is a Conservative MP, added: "Her role with us was very quiet and behind-the-scenes. She didn't get actively involved in any of our high-profile galas."

At Headway, the head injuries charity where the Princess chose to announce her withdrawal from public life at their Christmas luncheon in 1993, the chairman Nigel Cuts said her presence at the event had brought a £37,000 net profit.

The following year, the Princess withdrew from the luncheon: "Our major sponsor then also withdrew and our net profit was only £5,000. You can see how direct an impact she has."

At the Benesh Institute of Choreology, which provides a system of dance notation for major ballet companies, officials said the Princess's presence at an event always doubled or tripled the revenue.

Dominic Jenkins, chief executive of the Ty Hafan hospice, has written to the Princess urging her to reconsider. During her year-long patronage, the Princess helped to raise £100,000 by persuading Luciano Pavarotti to give a fund-raising concert in Cardiff.

"The support of the Princess as an individual has been vital. I am absolutely certain the people of Wales would wish her to carry on. It is the Princess as a person, not the HRH title, that we want," Mr Jenkins said.

The British Red Cross said it had raised more than £95 million last year when the Princess was patron of its 125th Birthday Appeal. Related, where the Princess has been patron since 1989, paid tribute to her work.

At Barnardo's, the senior director, Roger Singleton, said: "The Princess is closely associated with children and has often commanded mass attention when she speaks out on issues which affect them."

The English Women's Indoor Bowling Association was more sanguine. Margaret Ruff, secretary, said she was saddened, but the Princess's involvement had been limited: "I don't think it was really her sport."

Letters, page 17

ORGANISATIONS THAT WILL LOSE PATRONAGE

The Albany, London (president).

All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon (honorary member).

American Friends of Covent Garden, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Anglo-European College of Chiropractic, Bournemouth.

Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, London.

Association for Spinal Injury Research Rehabilitation and Reintegration (ASPIRE), Stanmore, northwest London.

Australian Council on Smoking and Health.

Australian Junior Red Cross.

Douglas Bader Foundation.

Bernardo's (president).

Bernardo's Australia (royal president).

Bernardo's New Zealand (international president).

Benesh Institute of Choreology, west London.

BOC Covent Garden Festival.

British Dental Association.

British Lung Foundation.

British Red Cross Society (vice-president and also patron of Red Cross Youth).

British Sports Association for the Disabled.

British Youth Opera, South Bank Polytechnic, south-west London.

Canadian Red Cross Youth Services.

Chester Summer Music Festival (joint patron).

Chickenshed Theatre Company, Enfield, north London.

Child Accident Prevention Trust.

Children's Hospital Foundation Appeal, Australia (joint patron).

Chipmunk Wildlife Trust, Boleyn, Zimbabwe.

College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (royal hon fellow).

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (royal patron and hon fellow).

Commonwealth Society for the Deaf.

Covent Garden Festival, London.

Disability Independence Association (president).

Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association.

English Women's Indoor Bowling Association.

Eurokat The Children's Museum, (joint patron with the Prince of Wales), Halifax.

Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (hon fellow).

First International Covent Garden Festival (1990).

Foundation for Conductive Education, Edgbaston.

Friends of Freshfield Association, Truro.

Friends of the Imperial War Museum, London (hon family member).

Garden Festival Wales (joint patron).

General Council and Registry of Osteopaths (president).

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.

Guild of St Sebastian, Bruges (royal hon member).

Guinness Trust, High Wycombe.

Headway National Head Injuries Association, Nottingham.

Help the Aged.

Highland Yacht Club (hon member).

Home-Start, Leicester.

Honorable Society of The Middle Temple (Royal Master of the Bench).

Huntingdon's Disease Association.

Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, central London.

International Spinal Research Trust, Enfield, north London.

Leukaemia Research Appeal for Wales.

David Lloyd Stanger Racquet Club (hon life member), Fleetley.

London Symphony Chorus.

London Symphony Orchestra.

National Council for Child Health (Child 2000).

National Children's Orchestra, Ashstead, Surrey.

National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery Development Association, The National Hospital, London.

National Rubella Council.

National Meningitis Trust (president).

Natural History Museum, London.

New Zealand College of Osteopaths and Gynaecologists, Wellington.

New Zealand Foundation for the Blind, Auckland.

Newport International Competition for Young Pianists (joint patron).

North Congress of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Northern Ireland Pre-School Playgroups Association, Belfast.

Parkinson's Disease Society.

Pied Piper Appeal, Gloucester.

Pre-School Playgroups Association.

Princess of Wales Children's Health Camp, Rotorua, New Zealand.

Printers Charitable Corporation (vice-president).

Rialto.

Royal Academy of Music, London.

Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, Surrey.

St Mary's Save the Baby Fund, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington.

St Matthew Society, Norwich.

Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children.

Scottish Pre-School Playgroups Association.

Surgeons of Glasgow.

Swansea Festival of Music and Arts.

Trust for Sick Children in Wales.

University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

Turning Point, east London.

Tushnetaya Children's Hospital Trust, Moscow.

Variety Club of New Zealand.

Wales Craft Council (president).

Wales Pre-School Playgroups Association.

Wellbeing, Regent's Park, London.

Welsh Bowling Association.

Welsh National Opera Ltd, Cardiff.

World Junior Bridge Championships.

Worshipful Company of Grocers (hon freeman).

Worshipful Company of M3, chant.



WPC Elizabeth Fletcher with Beau, which she said was no threat to criminals

WPC given 'duff dog' claims sex discrimination

By Stephen Farrell

A FORMER policewoman yesterday claimed that she was deliberately given an incompetent police dog to ruin her career.

Elizabeth Fletcher, 43, accused Nottinghamshire police dog trainers of using the ploy to stop her joining the force's dog section.

She was twice knocked over by her German shepherd dog Beau, suffering injuries to her knees which forced her to retire through ill health. Mrs Fletcher is claiming compensation against the force and her trainer, PC David Brown.

The Nottingham tribunal was told that Beau became easily distracted while tracking suspects, did not bite hard enough to hold them and needed to be "twanged" on the muzzle with an elastic band to produce an aggressive response. "He was so hopeless that even criminals would have realised he was no threat," Mrs Fletcher said.

She claimed that officers, including PC Brown, saw her as less effective than male colleagues. She was the second woman to join the section and was at the time the only female among 32 handlers.

The first accident with Beau came a month into training when he pulled her over in a simulated chase. Inspector Peter Joyce, a retired instructor, told the hearing: "It would appear that Beau anticipated the exercise and upon seeing

the suspect became excited, lunged forward and pulled her on to the concrete kerb. For some reason she had held on to the lead."

He said that Beau had no more problems than other dogs and that the allegations were without foundation.

"The job is difficult enough without the suggestion that anyone would allow any dog below the required standard to participate."

The second accident happened at a primary school display in June 1994, six months after the pair had passed the course and begun operational duties.

Jeremy Lewis, for Nottinghamshire police, claimed that PC Brown had gone out of his way to encourage and to praise Mrs Fletcher for her determination. He found it "not only pretty difficult but also pretty far-fetched" that PC Brown had deliberately given her a "duff dog".

PC Brown has since been removed from the dog section after another policewoman complained of discrimination, the tribunal was told. His lawyer, John Horan, said he was the innocent victim of malicious rumours.

Beau has been transferred to military duties and sent to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Defence Animal Centre for training in bomb detection, drug-sniffing or tracking.

The hearing continues.

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SATURDAY
IN THE TIMESLUCY AND THE
GIANT PEACH

How Roald Dahl's youngest daughter has seen her inheritance bloom, in the *Magazine*

PLUS

Weekend, Car 96, Weekend Money, 1015 for young Times readers, and *Vision*, the seven-day TV and radio guide

THE SEVEN-SECTION TIMES IS 40P ON SATURDAY

Exam boards urged to reinstate British history for GCSE

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PERSONAL appeal to save the study of British political history at GCSE was made to the examination boards by Nick Tate, the Government's curriculum chief, yesterday.

From September, key events such as the English Civil War and Henry VIII's reign are being dropped from GCSE syllabuses in favour of courses focusing on world history. They include topics such as the rise of America and Russia as superpowers, China in revolution and the demise of apartheid in South Africa.

Dr Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, is alarmed that the examination boards' decision means a generation of pupils will no longer follow GCSE courses that concentrate on British political history before 1900.

The most popular board for history GCSE, the Midlands Examining Group (MEG), is scrapping all five of its British history papers, which allowed

pupils to specialise on the medieval and Victorian periods, and the Tudors and Stuarts.

Mr Tate's concern is that the replacement courses call for little knowledge of the politics and personalities that make up Britain's heritage. The emphasis is being switched to global affairs and social and economic history.

The Southern Examining Group (SEG) is phasing out its two courses in Aspects of English History, 1509-1689 and 1815-1979, in favour of modern world history. It is retaining its popular syllabus in Aspects of British Social and Economic History.

The boards said yesterday there was not enough interest in British political courses to make them viable. Only 97 candidates took MEG's Tudors and Stuarts paper this year compared with 52,000 for world history; and 270 took SEG's 1509-1689 syllabus.

Dr Tate said he wanted the

boards to reconsider and continue to offer the courses as a public service. He said there was a precedent set by the boards when they agreed not to scrap GCSEs in Modern Hebrew and Polish after a similar appeal.

He was supported by Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History at Oxford University, who called the disappearance of British history courses "preposterous".

Kathleen Tattersall, director of the Joint Forum for the GCSE Boards, said: "The boards take their responsibility for providing an educational service seriously, but at the end of the day there is a very real issue as to whether we can continue to offer a syllabus if there are no candidates."

"You cannot separate the financial issues from the educational aspect. If people are not putting candidates forward, then we are not offering a public service anyway."



A scientist takes a close-up view of the kind of bomb damage he hopes to prevent in the fight against air terrorism. Chris Peel said yesterday that a lining of armour would strongly increase the chances of passenger jets surviving a Lockerbie-style explosion (Richard Duce writes).

The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency at Farnborough has spent four years and £5 million developing a protective sleeve for cargo holds, made of

Jet body armour cuts bomb blasts

a material similar to Kevlar body armour used by the military and police. Explosives of different weights were set off inside the simulated holds of jumbo jets, which currently have only a 50 per cent chance of surviving such a blast. Profes-

sor Peel, a chief scientist on the project, said: "Where we used the hardened lining, there was effectively no damage. I believe we have pushed the chance of survival up to 75 or 80 per cent."

The lining, costing a few thousand pounds per aircraft, would add three tonnes in weight, requiring extra fuel at a cost of £750,000 over the 20-year life of a 747. Researchers want legislation to require the fitting of hardened material. The 1985 Lockerbie blast killed 270.

BBC chief's £35,000 rise draws union 'fat cat' jibe

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

BROADCASTING unions have attacked the 13.2 per cent pay rise awarded to John Birt, the BBC's Director-General, which brings his salary to £299,495. The unions said yesterday that their members had been awarded a 2.6 per cent rise by the BBC, which had cut 850 jobs.

Mr Birt's £35,000 increase included a performance-related bonus of £24,000. The BBC also contributed £30,000 to his pension. Mr Birt is believed to be negotiating a further increase after his contract was extended for four years.

Gerry Morrissey, the chief negotiator of the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematography and Theatre Union, said: "Birt seems to be getting like one of these industry fat cats who earn their pay rises by ensuring others have no jobs or see their pay cut."

Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's new chairman, claimed that the rise was in line with comparable broadcasting organisations and state bodies.

ITV has announced that it is to invest £100 million to make at least 50 British feature films over ten years.

Media, pages 22, 23

Parents say son, 2, will die without donor heart

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE parents of a two-year-old boy waiting for a heart transplant appealed for a donor yesterday after doctors said that he will die by the end of the week unless one can be found.

Ashley Taylor's heart failed last week after he survived three operations to remedy a congenital defect. His parents, Wayne and Kay, yesterday begged any parent whose child has just died to come forward. Kay, 27, of Telford, Shropshire, said: "Please can they think about giving another baby the gift of life? Ashley has spent most of his life in hospital... he could go any time and we do not know whether these are his last hours or not."

Ashley has already surprised doctors at the Children's Hospital (Birmingham) by surviving until now. He suffers from hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which results in loss of the blood supply because the only channel left open from the heart begins to close.

Mr Taylor, also 27, said: "He keeps telling us that it hurts him and looks at me as if to say that he wants me to make it all better and I know I can't."

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TIN1

Church of England approves prayers to non-sexist God

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is to remove references to God as male in its prayer book and to replace the words "fellow men" with "neighbour".

The changes were condemned by traditionalists as a move towards political correctness. Liturgists defended them, saying that in at least one case they took the Church closer to the original Latin meanings.

The General Synod, meeting in York, approved changes to the service for Holy Communion, introducing "neighbour" in the confession and "peace to His people on earth" to "peace to God's people on earth" in the Gloria.

In the eucharistic prayer, the response "It is right to give Him thanks and praise" is being changed to "It is right to give our thanks and praise". In the Creed, "men" is being deleted from "For us men and for our salvation".

The Right Rev Noel DeBorja Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man, said: "I do not want to get into any debate on gender, but I do believe here we are tending to be too politically correct in changing these texts." He said the call to confession, where a reference



Bishop Jones said the changes were not needed

to men at the end is being deleted, was being emasculated. But he reserved particular criticism for the change to the Gloria. Words were being changed unnecessarily "just to make a point".

Professor Arthur Pollard, former professor of English at Hull University, also criticised "inclusive language, which I deplore".

The Church's 1980 Alternative Service Book is being revised for 2000. Although there is a conscious attempt to use "inclusive language" in places, the revision shows a more conservative bent than expected.

Liturgists are determined not to make the mistakes of the past, when the loss of the

traditional language of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer was widely mourned.

In concessions to traditionalists, the revised prayer book will include for the first time the version of the Communion service that uses the language of Thomas Cranmer. The synod has rejected calls from more extreme exponents of inclusive language to change the Creed's reference to the incarnation from "and was made man" to "and became truly human".

The Rev John Broadhurst, a vicar in north London and a member of the committee that helped to produce the Alternative Service Book 16 years ago, said: "I think many of us thought we were new Cranmers. I am glad to see in this one we are getting rid of some of the nonsense we created. But I do think there are problems."

"Eucharistic worship is Trinitarian," he said in his valedictory speech after 24 years on the synod. "I am amazed that the classic greeting used by many of us — 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' — is not used."

Canon Bernice Broggio, from Southwark, one of the synod's leading feminists, said the inclusive language should have gone further to include



Two clergy taking a sunshine break from the synod. Their prayer book is being revised for the year 2000

references to Christ. "Doctrinally, linguistically and theologically, what we are meaning is that Christ was made human," she said.

Shirley Ann Williams, from Exeter, said the changes did not go far enough. She said the references to "men" that remain in the more traditional Rite B Communion service should be changed to "people". She rejected the argument

that "men" was an alternative term for "people". She said: "I do not like to be called a man. I deny my femininity, which I value. It also contradicts my knowledge of biology."

Canon Michael Perham, vice-dean of Norwich, who was proposing the changes, defended some of them as better translations of the original Latin texts. He conceded that "they embrace some of the concerns about gender inclu-

sive language" and admitted that the liturgists had "run into some trouble" over this. "For, within our own culture and our own Church, there is no consensus on this issue."

The changes will bring the eucharistic worship in the Church of England closer to the liturgies in the worldwide Anglican Church, as well as to the Roman Catholic and Methodist churches world-wide.

Liturgists in all the mainstream churches are working towards liturgies that are closer to the original biblical texts, and one result will be increasing similarities in services in different denominations, thus bringing them closer together.

Anglicans yesterday welcomed this as a means of enabling members of other denominations to feel at home, no matter where they might be worshipping.

Extra jab for young to prevent measles

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

EVERY pre-school child is to be offered a second vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella to eliminate the risk of epidemics, the Government announced yesterday.

From October, all children given pre-school boosters against diphtheria, tetanus and polio will also have a booster of the so-called MMR vaccine, in addition to the first dose which is offered to infants between 12-15 months.

Government scientists say the extra dose is necessary to keep the pool of children susceptible to measles at a minimum, following the success of the 1994 MMR campaign which almost eradicated the disease.

Between 92 and 93 per cent of children have their first dose of MMR by their second birthday, but the vaccine is not effective in all cases. About 10 per cent do not get protection from it, in addition to the 8 per cent who do not take up the offer of vaccination.

Scientists say that this means an accumulation of 100,000 unprotected children each year.

The total cost of the strategy, recommended by the advisory Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, which advises the Government, is estimated at £18 million in the first year, falling to £6 million in subsequent years.

600 attend funeral of Amschel Rothschild

By LIN JENKINS

THE family and friends of Amschel Rothschild, the financier who was found hanged in a Paris hotel last week, gathered for his funeral yesterday.

About 600 mourners attended the service at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery in Willesden, north London, where he was buried in a private plot. They included William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage; Alan Yentob, the BBC director of programmes; Bill Wyman, the former Rolling Stone; and Anna Ford, the newsreader.

The family mourners were led by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of N M Rothschild, and Lord Rothschild, Amschel's half-brother Jacob.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, a family friend, conducted the private service. Speaking of Mr Rothschild, who was chairman of Rothschild Asset Management, she said: "His friendship is irreplaceable and it is devastating for his family."

As she directed her gaze at his widow Anita, 38, and children, Kate, 13, Alice, 12, and James, 11, she said: "You were the focus of his life." She said he was known for his "elegance, charm and delight in often very silly jokes." She added: "He was a respected City banker, he was a man of loyalty, a country-life lover and a generous host. He was also a devoted friend. The sense of loss will never heal."

The service was conducted in English and Hebrew and relayed through speakers to an overflow outside. Mourners then followed the oak coffin to the grave, where they recited the Jewish prayer for the dead.

Mr Rothschild, 41, was found dead in his room at the Hotel Bristol while on business in Paris. French investigators concluded that he had committed suicide.

Appeal over police cell death fails

A restaurant owner who claimed police framed him over a man's death has lost his appeal. Malcolm Kennedy, 48, had been arrested for drunkenness and held in a cell with Patrick Quinn, 56, in Hammersmith, west London. Quinn was found kicked to death.

In 1991, Kennedy, of Stoke Newington, north London, was jailed for life, but the Court of Appeal ordered a retrial, which convicted him of manslaughter with a nine-year sentence. That was upheld at the Court of Appeal.

Postal strike plea

The Royal Mail is advising customers not to post letters today or tomorrow to prevent a backlog of mail caused by tomorrow's planned walkout by postal workers. No talks are scheduled between the two sides and three further strikes are planned.

VC auctioned

A Victoria Cross awarded to General Sir Charles Gough in recognition of four acts of bravery during the Indian Mutiny sold for £41,400 at Spink's in London to an anonymous bidder. The family is unique in that three Goughs were awarded VCs.

Dickens portrait

The earliest-known portrait of Charles Dickens, handed over as security for a £10 loan 50 years ago and never reclaimed, was sold to a Mayfair antiques dealer for £14,375 at Phillips in London. Dickens posed for the watercolour when he was 15.

Briefs in news

Dolores O'Riordan, singer with the Cranberries pop group, accepted undisclosed damages in the High Court over a claim in the *Daily Star* that she went on stage without her briefs. In April the *Daily Sport* had to apologise over a similar allegation.

Actor sues over firing of film blunderbuss

By A STAFF REPORTER

A 72-YEAR-OLD actor who claims that his hearing was damaged after an ancient blunderbuss was fired on a film set is suing for £100,000 damages. Graham Stark, who says that the accident cost him several offers of work, is taking action against Robin Crichton, a film director, and Edinburgh Film and Video Productions.

At the Court of Session, Edinburgh — Scotland's supreme civil court — Judge John Wheatley, QC, ruled that a hearing of evidence should take place at a date to be fixed.

Mr Stark, of Ninemileburn, by Penicik, Lothian, and London, appeared in

with Peter Sellers, says that he was filming *Moonacre* in Slovenia when an old-fashioned blunderbuss was unexpectedly discharged in an enclosed courtyard. He was standing near by and immediately felt pain and a "pinging" in his left ear, and needed hospital treatment.

Mr Stark also claims that he lost television and commercial work, a role in a West End production and the lead part in a film, *Red Herring*, *Red Moon*, with a fee of £25,000. Mr Crichton denies liability, claiming that the blunderbuss was test-fired some distance away from the set and that the actor's hearing

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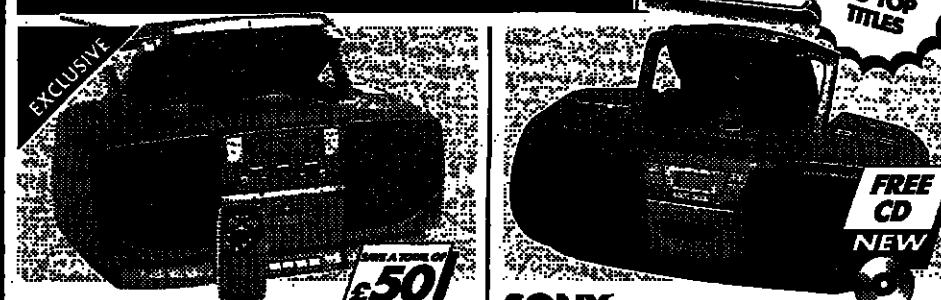
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Shrinking role could put financing of higher education and contributory benefits in private hands

Mandarins outline plans for a united states of Britain

REPORTS BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

PREPARATIONS for a radical reorganisation of the state, on the lines put forward by the American Republicans, have been drawn up by Treasury officials as the Government's most powerful department readies itself for the next millennium.

In a report to Sir Terence Burns, the Treasury Permanent Secretary, his senior officials look at ways to manage public spending if there are no radical changes in the responsibilities of the state, and at what a reduced state might imply for the Treasury.

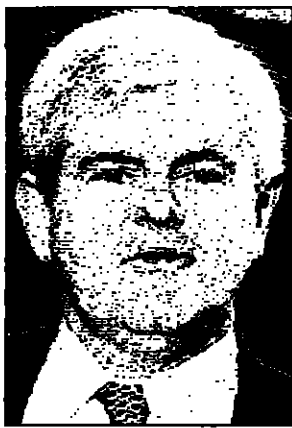
The document does not "explicitly consider" how a different administration would deal with the tasks, but it does consider alternative policy options. Several, notably those on the decentralisation of powers from Whitehall, would find more favour with Labour.

A section of the document, called *Strategic Considerations for the Treasury*, which has been obtained by *The Times*, looks at how the Republican proposals could be implemented in the United Kingdom, although the Treasury team admits that the US plan "has not progressed as they hoped and in the more liberal culture would probably meet even greater resistance".

The officials entitled the section "Contract with Britain: a smaller state" in an allusion to the "Contract with America" vision advanced by Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The paper says that the Republican aim of a balanced budget is "quite feasible" in Britain. "Borrowing is on a downward trend now and a slightly tougher public-spending stance could certainly deliver balance in 2000-2005."

The US proposals focus on personal tax cuts through higher allowances, the opposite of the UK trend. The rationale for the American policy is to encourage thrift and produce lower demand for state provision in the long



Gingrich: his vision for US provided blueprint

run. "The options are practical but could be costly in revenue terms."

The paper refers to the Republican plans to cut entitlements to teenage mothers and to put strict time limits on benefits, but goes further with suggestions including privatising contributory benefits and cuts in spending on further and higher education. The former could be replaced by voluntary or compulsory private insurance.

The approach is gaining support, it says. A model already exists for one of the contributory benefits (Serps) and in Germany people can contract out of sickness benefits. Chile has compulsory private insurance for all pension provision.

The document warns of serious obstacles: getting the private sector to provide services hitherto financed through public expenditure entails time. Privatisation would require regulation on monopoly grounds as well as to promote competition. Dealing with accrued rights could mean that implementation would take 50 years and providing protection for the poorest would raise demands for means-tested benefits.

The Treasury suggests that the Government should set priorities for spending in advance of the annual public expenditure round, to help to

prevent fighting between departments.

The document says the Government is considering cutting state support for further and higher education on the grounds that rising demand is "unaffordable and private returns to individuals and their employers exceed social returns". Funding of sixth-forms and universities could be by financing individuals with vouchers, grants, loans and employer contributions.

The Treasury team looks at decentralising powers to local authorities, in line with the Republican call to decentralise to the American states, but it says that councils' powers could be reduced in the areas of education and roads.

It suggests that primary and secondary education could be delivered by central government, perhaps through compulsory opt-out, abolition of LEAs and a central agency to administer student grants. "This would virtually halve the size of local government by removing its single biggest function."

The report discloses that a further proposal already under consideration is treating roads as a utility rather than a public service. Ownership would be transferred to regulated private companies which would receive their income from road-users.

Other measures suggested include giving local authorities responsibility for the business rate and functions currently run by regional offices of central departments, such as environment, transport and trade and industry.

More radically, the report raises the prospect of giving local authorities more powers over the provision of health and social security services, such as full responsibility for provisions for disabled people. Of more attraction to a Labour government would be the suggestions of increasing the powers of councils to raise more finance through local taxes, on the German model.

Leading article, page 17



Odds against joining single currency before millennium

THERE is a less than 50 per cent chance of the United Kingdom joining a single European currency in 1999 under a Labour or Conservative government, the senior Treasury officials conclude.

They say that early entry would be the best option for the City, but describe this as an improbable eventuality. "City interests are unlikely to drive this policy," the Treasury document says in a reference to divisions in the two main parties over joining a single currency.

The document says that the advent of the single currency and the uncertainties about whether, when and how this would be implemented, are "the single biggest challenge" facing the Treasury today. Irrespective of whether the

UK eventually joins a currency, the biggest change foreseen in Treasury work is a big rise in the number of policies formulated at European level.

The Treasury believes that the case for an independent Bank of England will be strengthened if the UK does not go into a single currency because it will be seen as a way of giving credibility to a more rigorous anti-inflation policy. This is the "main alternative scenario" to membership of the single currency.

One possible formula is the New Zealand system, under which the Treasury would set policy objectives and the Bank would be contracted to deliver, but the Bank would have the freedom to determine interest rates in order to meet the objectives set for it.

The document says there are three ways forward on tax and spending policies if the UK joins a single currency: national independence and flexibility; the German-backed rules approach under which countries will face penalties if they fail to keep their public-sector deficits below 3 per cent of gross domestic product or fiscal union.

The officials say it would be much easier were the national administration the same party as the majority of UK MEPs. It also says the European Parliament may soon win powers to share decisions on issues such as environment, transport and health and safety. "If there is a significant extension to co-decision-making it will be worth investing in our relations with the European Parliament. This will largely be a task for ministers and it would be much easier were the national administration the same party as the majority of UK MEPs."

EU emphasis may weaken world trade role

BRITAIN will slip into the second division of world economies in the next 20 years with its influence in international organisations declining as a result, Treasury officials have predicted.

The pessimistic forecast, contained in the strategic document on policies for the millennium, suggests that on present growth trends China would be the largest economic nation in 2015.

The document appears to suggest for the first time that increasing trade links with Europe may damage the chances of securing more lucrative markets in the Far East and South America. In a passage that will have embarrassed Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, it asks if economic interests were best served in the long run "by hitching our wagon to all the EU".

One way of countering the decline, the Treasury officials suggest, would be a campaign to promote the English language as the "main lingua franca of the next century".

The document predicts that France, Britain and Italy would lose their places in the top seven of the league of world output, being overtaken by India in fourth place, Brazil in sixth and Indonesia in seventh. The United States, Japan, Germany and China would remain in the top seven, with China replacing the US at the top. Mexico and South Korea will be close behind Britain.

The change is seen as the inevitable result of a large number of new economies rapidly catching up with relatively slow-growing mature economies. "Emerging economies can copy existing methods at relatively low cost compared with expensive development of new technologies. Better communications and capital mobility than in the past allow a more rapid diffusion of technology. And the developing world benefits from a large pool of cheap labour," the document says. It

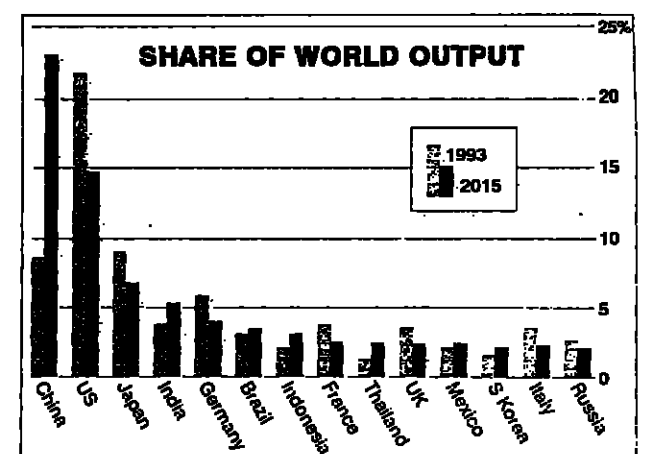
suggests that because of the geographic breakdown of British exports, market share would be lost as main markets grew more slowly than world trade. Eighty per cent of British exports, it says, were to those industrial countries expected to grow relatively slowly. Developing economies would produce a positive knock-on effect for the developed world, however, through increased competition, cheaper international production because of economies of scale and greater financial diversification.

The document says that great economic power for the emerging nations was likely to be followed by demands for greater political powers. Britain's role in the Group of Seven, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Trade Organisation "will change as we move down the ranking".

It adds: "The structure of the institutions themselves will need to change, too, so that emerging countries can play roles on the world stage consonant with their economic strength. This underlines the need for early preparation if we are to retain influence in the future."

The document proposes changes at the Treasury to tackle the new situation created by declining influence. These include restoring a Treasury posting to Delhi, which was abolished after Britain joined the European Community, and sending staff to Paris, Berlin, Peking, Tokyo and Moscow while maintaining a presence in Brussels and Washington.

It suggests that the Treasury should immediately begin to enhance its language skills, concentrating on French, German, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish, and should start a programme with the Foreign Office to promote English.

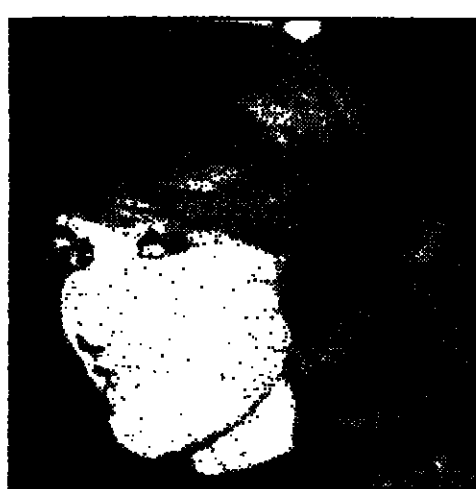


NOTICE PLACED BY THE LONDON PENSIONS FUND AUTHORITY

APOLOGY

by the London Pensions Fund Authority to Patricia May Eaton

Following the demise of the Inner London Education Authority (the ILEA) on 31 March 1990 and by the passing to the London Pensions Fund Authority (the Authority) on 1 April 1992 of all the functions, rights and liabilities of the London Residuary Body which relate to, or arise from, any contract of employment with the ILEA, the Authority took over the Defence of an action which had been commenced by Miss Patricia Eaton for damages for breach of contract against the ILEA and Mr David Mallen (the last Education Officer of the ILEA) and, in 1993, became a Defendant, again alongside Mr Mallen, in a second action commenced by Miss Eaton for damages for personal injury arising out of her employment with the ILEA. A full and intensive review of the documentation surrounding her complaints has made the Authority and Mr Mallen aware of the following matters:



- that there was serious mismanagement of the issues arising out of the events which led Miss Eaton successfully to bring defamation proceedings in the High Court against Mr Terry Horsley in 1983;
- that there was a failure by the ILEA to address Miss Eaton's legitimate grievances concerning the mismanagement of those issues either by instituting disciplinary procedures or otherwise;
- that Miss Eaton's professional reputation, career and status have all been irretrievably damaged by that mismanagement and that failure to the extent that she was deprived of her employment and suffered severe harm to her health and future prospects;
- that the failure to address Miss Eaton's legitimate grievances was a source of great sadness to her mother while alive;
- that the failure to address Miss Eaton's grievances continued and was exacerbated by the withdrawal from her in January 1990 of a Special Enquiry that had been promised to her as a means of addressing those grievances;
- that Miss Eaton should have been accorded sight of the report prepared by Ms. Marion Stockley in March 1990 without the need for her to have commenced proceedings in the High Court to secure sight of the same; and
- that her distress has been exacerbated by the need to pursue court proceedings in order to secure redress and acknowledgement of the wrongs done to her.

The Authority offers to Miss Eaton their apology without reservation for all the above and especially for the distress and vexation which was occasioned to her mother in the last years of her life and express the hope that such apology, coupled with the payment to her of a significant sum in damages, will go some way to restoring Miss Eaton's health and professional reputation.

THE ABOVE WAS READ OUT AS A STATEMENT IN THE HIGH COURT ON 24 JUNE 1996.

Closing ranks on open government

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE authors of the confidential report admit, with obvious discomfort, that Parliament's demands for information are likely to increase and that the drive towards greater accountability will gather momentum.

Plainly, they write: "We would not be able to rewrite or edit papers or filter files as now." And, with the advent of computer technology, the Treasury would no longer be able to claim high costs as an argument for not making information publicly available. "As the costs of supplying information fall, it becomes harder to justify not doing so."

The report paints a heart-rending picture of a Treasury, not only by the public but also by fellow Whitehall departments. Treasury ministers and officials "find it difficult to engage in a constructive dialogue" with a "very sophisticated" adversary, such as the Foreign Office.

Confirming widespread criticism about the slow pace of movement towards greater openness, the authors say the Government has been "moving cautiously to provide more information and accountability". However, they breathe a sigh of relief as they list a string of Treasury exemptions to the Government's code of practice ensuring wider access to information. "All of these provide great protection to the Treasury at the moment."

The report claims that min-

isters and officials had made some progress in publishing details on economic forecasts and monthly meetings between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England. But in an apparent effort to pre-empt the overzealous intrusion of MPs into Treasury affairs, the report suggests improved contacts with chairmen of some Commons select committees.

It also lends support to Labour's proposals to publish a "Green Budget" in which taxation and spending proposals would be made available for wider consultation outside government. Labour's plans for a freedom of information act would send shock waves through Whitehall, but the Treasury report reassures colleagues that in other countries "special exemptions are given for much economic and financial data". Listing a string of exemptions contained in Australian and New Zealand freedom of information legislation, the authors add: "We would of course want to ensure any legislation of ours included similar caveats."

There is a warning that ministers and officials might have to go beyond disclosing selected information and divulge entire documents. "So when advice was given, the possibility that it might be published at a later date would have to be taken into account."

IN PARLIAMENT

Today in the Commons, backbench debates the Co-operative movement; crop covers, Trade and Industry; questions, debate on the economy; Military Education and Great-Maintained Schools Bill, Lords; amendments; backbench debate on provision for

mentally ill in Glasgow; Government in the Lower Education Bill, third reading; Schools Inspection Bill, third reading; Denigration Insurance Companies Act Order; Housing Bill, third reading; Education (Scotland) Bill, Commons amendments.

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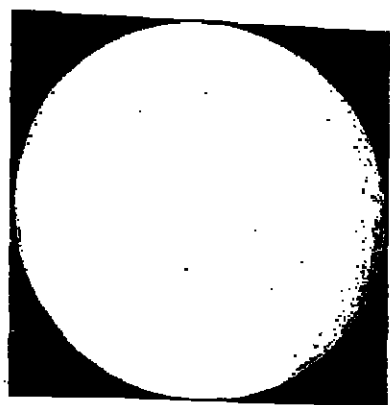
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Scientists launch missions to find landing sites on Mars



Planet's surface will be analysed

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FOUR missions are expected to be sent to Mars as part of a long-term plan to colonise it. Two decades after the first spacecraft was sent to the red planet, three international missions are expected to return this year to map the Martian weather of dust and ice clouds, and another is planned for 1998.

It is hoped, vast quantities of water are trapped in the form of ice or permafrost.

Dr Richard Zurek, of the Joint Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the researcher heading the Mars Surveyor 98 Mission, said yesterday: "If you want to put people on Mars and manufacture fuels, you need to know where the water is."

Details of the missions were disclosed at the two-yearly meeting of the Committee on Space Research, an international gathering of about 2,000 scientists at Birmingham University. Dr Arden Albee of the California Institute of Technology, also in Pasadena, said the first launch was scheduled for November. It will take about

eight months to arrive at the red planet which, at its closest to Earth, is 40 million kilometres away, where the craft will go into orbit over the Martian poles. The surveyors' cameras will map the surface in unprecedented detail, and other instruments will monitor weather and atmosphere.

The second launch is of a large Russian craft called Mars 96. It is employing two landers and two "penetrators" shaped like golf tees and the size of big dinner tables. The landers will be parachuted down to the surface and will monitor the weather a few metres above the ground. The penetrators will study soils and monitor seismic activity. Possibly the most ambi-

tious mission is called Pathfinder, another American-led programme due to be launched in December. "It is an engineering experiment to look at new ways of putting landing craft on the surface," Dr Albee said. The mission will deploy tiny weather stations and a remote-controlled rover, the size of a toy, which will roam the planet surface, taking pictures with its camera.

The final mission is the Mars surveyor 1998. It will deploy another landing craft with a robot arm near the south pole. It will dig a trench through the dust and ice to discover how hard the surface is and at what depth ice can be found.

Dr Zurek said the four missions were vital in the push to put a man on Mars and, one day, possibly transform the planet into a place habitable for humans.

"The most optimistic date of putting a man on Mars is 2020," he said.

Scientists claim to have found evidence of ice on the moon, it was disclosed at the Committee on Space Research meeting in Birmingham. The existence of water could help turn the moon into a giant launchpad from mankind could fly to colonise the solar system and galaxies beyond.

Airport expansion threatens ruin of Domesday villages

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GROUP of Essex villages mentioned in the Domesday Book lost their battle in the High Court yesterday to halt housing development which they fear will destroy their rural character.

The parish councils of Birchington, Felsted, Little Dunmow and Takeley say that the planned 2,500 homes for the growing workforce of Stansted airport amount to "development vandalism".

George Bartlett, QC, the Recorder, giving his judgment in the High Court, refused their plea to quash the provision for the developments in the local council plan and to order a second planning inquiry.

Afterwards the parish councils said that their villages — in an area noted for its half-timbered cottages, duck ponds and village greens — will be lost forever. Andrew Warren, chairman of the Felsted and Little Dunmow Conservation Society, and the parish coun-

cils brought the action against Uttlesford District Council. He said: "These are Domesday Book villages. It is, effectively, doomsday for them. It effectively urbanises one of the few rural areas remaining in the South East."

The judgment opens the way for developers to build 650 homes at Felsted sugar beet works, 825 homes at Takeley, 400 at Rochford Nurseries in Stansted Mountfitchet, and 625 at Buildings Farm, Great Dunmow. The houses, to be constructed at the turn of the century, are intended for up to 14,500 workers as the airport expands to handle 15 million passengers a year.

The parishes complained that the villages had unlawfully been denied the opportunity to give evidence at the original planning inquiry in 1993 which centred on a single-site development at a disused airfield site at Easton Park, near Great Dunmow. The inquiry

came down firmly in favour of dispersal over a number of sites.

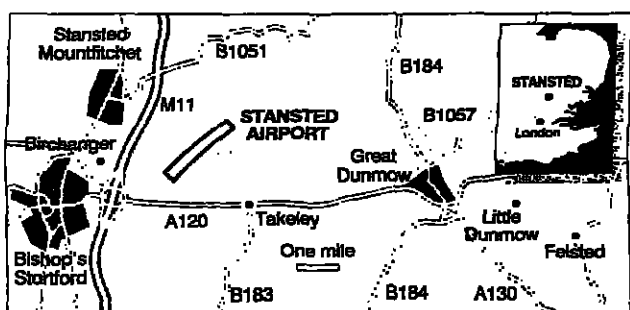
Mr Bartlett acknowledged that villagers had been "accorded less than equitable treatment" but concluded that it was "wholly improbable" that a future inquiry would come to a different decision.

Mr Warren said the judgment raised a serious question mark over the public inquiry system, which had excluded those most affected by the development. The parish councils are considering whether to appeal but cost could rule it out. The failed action has already cost them tens of thousands of pounds.

Alan Dean, leader of Uttlesford council, said he was relieved that, after six years of wrangling, the council could push on with implementing its plan.

Jilly Cooper, the bestselling novelist and journalist, has joined a campaign to stop two new town developments in the Cotswolds, developments at Standish, near Stroud, and at Boddington, near Tewkesbury, form part of the provision for 53,000 new homes in Gloucestershire by 2011.

Ms Cooper, who lives near Bisley, has complained to Gloucestershire County Council that her village has already suffered from an "ill thought-out" development at nearby Eastcombe. She says the new plan could ruin the county.



Police and security men were out in force yesterday to head off possible disruption of Operation Mollusc by Newbury bypass protesters

Big security operation proceeds at snail's pace

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

WORKMEN protected by police and security guards yesterday launched Operation Mollusc, which will culminate in the removal of a rare species of snail from the path of the Newbury bypass.

Some 1,000 square metres of sedge, grass and wet turf is being transferred from a site near Bagnor on the River Lambourn and being taken a

mile and a half south to create a new habitat for Desmoulin's whorl that will be watered by the River Kennet.

About 50 police officers, some mounted, reinforced by 70 security men hired by the Government's Highways Agency, were on hand to prevent disruption by a group of 40 protesters opposed to the bypass.

The transfer of the snails themselves is expected to begin in a few weeks. Their present site on the banks of

the Lambourn will be obliterated by the supports of the bridge that will carry the bypass, due to be opened in 1998, over the river.

English Nature, the Government's conservation adviser, has given its blessing to the relocation of the snails, even though their new home will lie only 15 metres from the edge of the bypass. A special porous asphalt will reduce harmful spray from vehicles.

Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth, which has cam-

paigned strongly against the bypass, said: "There is little chance the snails will survive in their new habitat. Where the snails live now is a complete micro-ecology with its own climate and temperature. It cannot be recreated in this crude way."

The environmental pressure group failed recently in an 11th-hour attempt to persuade the High Court to grant an injunction suspending work on the bypass because of the threat to the snail.



Desmoulin's whorl: being moved 1½ miles

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Holding	Rate of Interest
under £25,000	6.0% pa
£25,000 and over	6.25% pa

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Scientists' report raises new fear for beef deal

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN STRASBOURG

THE safety of British beef by-products was thrown into question again yesterday when the European Commission reported scientific doubts about the conditions under which Britain is to be allowed to resume exports after a hard-fought agreement last month.

Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, reported that "the whole issue of gelatine" was to be re-examined today by a new multi-disciplinary committee which was created to handle the BSE emergency. He was addressing the European Parliament after MEPs expressed their anger over the disclosure of an old Commission memo that reported an alleged decision to stifle news of the epidemic.

Although gelatine and tallow, the two main by-products, are not yet back on the export market, the fresh doubts about their safety are a blow to Britain because the decision to lift the ban on them was deemed a breakthrough in the campaign to end the whole embargo. Britain launched its non-cooperation campaign when EU officials initially refused to lift the ban, claiming the by-products

could be infected. Germany and other European states have continued to insist on the possible risks from the by-products despite the easing of the ban, taken after a narrow majority supported the action.

Officials said a scientific committee had found evidence to suggest that gelatine could still carry the infective agent for BSE when treated at the temperatures imposed in the deal with Britain. Other meth-

Germany's refusal to ease any aspect of the beef embargo. Bonn is heading for a collision with the Commission and Britain over its continuing blanket ban.

Continuing passions over the beef affair were on display in the Strasbourg Parliament yesterday as Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, struggled to quell the indignation of MEPs over the 1990 note in which a Brussels

level report on the meeting. Mr Santer said. Other officials at the meeting had denied the truth of his account, he added.

Styling themselves the guardians of the European consumer, MEPs from every main group accused the Commission of sins ranging from incompetence to deliberate obfuscation because it had failed to lead an adequate campaign against BSE. The far-right French National Front likened the Commission to "one of history's great poisoners of humanity". The "mad cow" disease epidemic was the consequence of the just for unrestricted free trade, one MEP said.

In angry mood, several parties called for an official inquiry, although it was unclear whether there was enough support for this.

The dominant Socialist group said the note was "the quintessence of everything that the public finds wrong with the Commission."

Graham Watson, a British Liberal Democrat MEP, rounded on the British Government, saying "the cover-up of this issue has been the UK's Chernobyl."

It is possible that we will have to increase standards before allowing exports of by-products to resume

ods might have to be sought to neutralise the agent, they said. "The issue is partly academic because there is no sign that the manufacturers of gelatine in Britain are close to meeting the standards we set in June," a Commission spokesman said. "But it is now possible that we will have to increase those standards before allowing exports to resume."

The latest worry over the by-products is certain to bolster

official reported an alleged decision to play down BSE disease through "disinformation".

Mr Santer reported that his inquiry had shown that the note, which was disclosed in France last month, gave a false account of a veterinary committee meeting in October 1990. Its author, Gilbert Castille, an official who has now retired, had been reflecting a personal bias in a low-



The Pope takes a walk through a valley in the Dolomite mountains yesterday during a holiday break. He is spending the time at Lorenzago di Cadore, north Italy, and will not return to the Vatican until next Tuesday

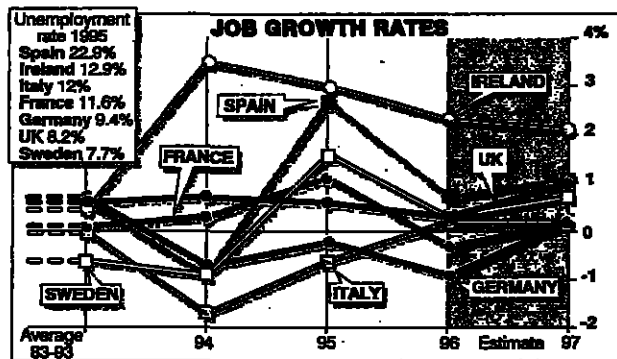
Delors vision for jobs fails to get Europe on its bike

BY GEORGE BROCK
EUROPEAN EDITOR

SHORTLY before he retired, Jacques Delors had urged the leaders of the European Union to launch a crusade against unemployment before the end of the century.

The former President of the European Commission carpet-bombed several summit meetings with fearsome graphs showing that both the United States and Asia create many more jobs than EU economies during both good times and bad. Europe should set itself a target, M Delors said, of creating 15 million new jobs by 2000.

Although drabs and drabs of M Delors' ideas survive,



his "White Paper" designed to get Europe on its bike made no dent in the numbers. When M Delors rolled his ideas out, average unemployment was 11.5 per cent; it is almost exactly the same now. Eu-

rope's dole queue is 18-million people long.

As cash-strapped governments slim their welfare states to qualify for European monetary union, a fatalistic mood has taken over. "Future societ-

ies will have to get used to this, rather than chasing an unattainable level of employment for all," Johannes Gross, a German commentator, said.

M Delors failed for reasons which explain the latest job-growth figures published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development this week. European leaders such as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, shy away from expensive public projects. Despite declarations that unemployment is a common problem, EU governments compete against each other to show that their policies best meet the need.

The award for the fastest growth rate goes to Ireland: 3 per cent last year. But the

Irish labour force is expanding fast and the OECD says, unemployment there will be 12.2 per cent at the end of next year. Spain suffers from the same problem.

Britain outperforms its larger EU partners. The net job creation rate is high and looks set to remain so. Although the OECD has quarrelled with British methods of counting the unemployed in the past, it underwrites the Tory claim that Britain has the "lowest rate of unemployment in any major EU economy". Only Sweden, the Netherlands and Portugal are around the same level.

"The UK does show pretty steady progress, and I don't see any sign of a downturn,"

Pam Meadows, director of the Policy Studies Institute, said of the new figures. "Germany and France don't get the same sort of job growth. Unemployment in those two countries ratchets itself upwards in each recession. France has seen very few new jobs for a long time, even though the economy's output is high."

The political battle will be over whether inequality or unemployment is the greater danger to social stability in Europe. The OECD's *Employment Outlook* warns that inequality in Britain and America threatens their fabric. British and US politicians reply that an EU jobless rate of more than 11 per cent is the real culprit.

Málaga hit by fourth Eta bomb in four days

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A BOMBING campaign by the Basque separatist group Eta, intended to damage tourism in Andalusia, gathered pace yesterday with an explosion in a shopping centre in Málaga.

The attack, unlike previous Eta bombs, occurred without warning. The bomb, the eighth in the southern Spanish province in six days — and the fourth in Málaga since Saturday — exploded in a lavatory in a city centre gallery of shops. No one was injured, and damage was minimal.

During its summer bomb-

ing campaign in Andalusia, Eta has also exploded bombs at the popular tourist resort of Almuñécar on the Costa del Sol, the *parador* at Jaén, and outside the Alhambra in Granada.

The Andalusia campaign is designed to create fear at a time when the region has thousands of foreign visitors, many from Britain.

Police yesterday defused an explosive device in Pamplona, a day before the Tour de France passes through the northern Spanish town. Eta has threatened to disrupt the bicycle race.

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Gore declares Yeltsin in good health at talks

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN confounded speculation about his health by appearing in good health when he met Al Gore, the US Vice-President, yesterday in the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow.

The mystery of why Mr Yeltsin had cancelled their meeting on Monday at an hour's notice, unsettling world stock markets, remained unsolved. Mr Gore diplomatically brushed it aside as a routine change of plan.

A bank of cameras studied the Russian President for any signs of ill health. But as the two men sat opposite each other and chatted for 45 minutes, Mr Yeltsin looked no worse than he has on many occasions over the past few years. He walked a little stiffly and was puffy in the face, but smiled broadly and spoke clearly.

"He looks very good to me," Mr Gore said afterwards, anticipating reporters' questions. "He seemed to be in good health, relaxed, smiling and seemed very actively engaged in the subjects we

discussed," the Vice-President said, adding that they had held an in-depth discussion on global and bilateral issues.

The cancelled meeting will now turn into just another of the mysterious episodes which have dogged Mr Yeltsin for the past three years and have persuaded some observers that he is seriously ill.

The press has not been able to see Mr Yeltsin in a spontaneous setting for almost a month. But in time-honoured Kremlin fashion, his aides have insisted only that he is "very tired" after a stressful election campaign and is taking a two-week holiday before his inauguration on August 9.

Mr Yeltsin's choice of a sanatorium as his holiday location however suggests that he is undergoing some kind of medical treatment and there is even speculation that he may undergo open-heart surgery some time later this year.

In an atmosphere of mutual cosiness Mr Gore warmly congratulated Mr Yeltsin on his election victory and on his "dancing technique", a refer-

ence to the Russian leader's lively performance on the campaign trail.

In response Mr Yeltsin said that it was a "common victory" for democracy. President Clinton made little secret of his support for Mr Yeltsin in the presidential election.

Many Russian liberal politicians had been hoping that Mr Gore would take a tough position on the recent military escalation in Chechnya and the bombing of villages. However his statement was vague: Mr Gore said only that he had urged Mr Yeltsin to restart the negotiation process and that he believed the issue could not be solved militarily.

Mr Gore said the details of the discussions were confidential. "I believe that the interests of the Russian and Chechen people would be best served by a return to the ceasefire arrangement and to the conditions negotiated about a month ago," he said.

The situation in Chechnya has deteriorated further with the shooting by soldiers of at least 13 people in three cars on

the edge of Grozny on Monday night.

A crowd of women demonstrated outside the headquarters of the local Moscow-backed Government demanding that the perpetrators be punished.

Yesterday Anatoli Kulikov, the Russian Interior Minister, said that he had evidence that the two explosions on Moscow buses had been planned in Chechnya. He said his men had intercepted a telephone conversation in Chechnya between two men discussing the bombings. He added that the operation to attack separatist rebels would continue.

Mr Gore and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, who are co-chairmen of a joint commission on economic and scientific co-operation, signed 27 documents yesterday covering areas such as early warning about industrial and natural disasters, reducing emissions of "greenhouse gases", joint climatic research and construction of the international Alpha space station.



President Yeltsin and Vice-President Al Gore meet at a Moscow sanatorium yesterday

Ukraine leader survives car bomb

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KIEV

UKRAINE's Prime Minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, escaped an assassination attempt with only slight injuries yesterday when a bomb exploded under his car.

The blast occurred as Mr Lazarenko was on his way to Kiev airport. He was treated for a shoulder injury. Two guards in an accompanying car also suffered slight injuries, according to officials.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack.

An Interior Ministry official, who declined to be identified, said the bomb was planted in a drain and detonated by remote control as the car drove past. Police investigators said the bomb exploded while Mr Lazarenko's car was swerving to pass a passenger bus, which significantly diminished the impact of the explosion.

Mr Lazarenko left the capital an hour after the incident, travelling to the eastern city of Donetsk to negotiate with striking coalminers.



Aldrich: made security checks on staff

Clinton employees were drug takers

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration admitted yesterday that 21 employees were allowed to work at the White House even though their background checks showed recent or extensive drug use.

At the insistence of the Secret Service, which guards the President, the 21 had to submit to a drug-testing programme. None tested positive. The programme was set up two years ago and nine of the 21 who are still at the White House continue to be subject to special testing.

The admissions verify concerns raised by Gary Aldrich, the former FBI agent at the White House who has just published a venomous book about President and Mrs Clinton and their aides. Mr Aldrich was in charge of checks for new employees and has asserted that their ranks included drug-takers among "Clintonites".

The issue is a gift for Republicans who can turn it into an election issue with bumper stickers along the lines of: "No more Druggies in the White House". Many Americans are unlikely to be sympathetic to the idea that recent drug-users can get jobs on the public payroll at the White House, which is supposed to exemplify national pride and dignity.

Mike McCurry, Mr Clinton's spokesman, emphasised that none of the 130 senior aides to the President was implicated. About 1,700 people work at the White House.

Overdose boost for film from Britain

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A ROCK "n" roll drugs scandal and the arrival in Manhattan of a shipment of unusually deadly heroin seem to have assured success in America for the British film *Trainspotting*.

The film, which portrays life among Edinburgh drug addicts, opens in New York this weekend. Its US distributor, Miramax, is speaking about takings of \$20 million (nearly £13 million).

There has not been as much interest here in a British film since *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, although that could not have portrayed a more different picture of modern Britain. *Trainspotting*, which cost only \$2.5 million to make, has been seized on by the metropolitan media as the clever thing to like this summer.

An unpleasant rock music death last weekend did the film no harm. Jonathan Melvoin, a keyboard player touring with the hit group Smashing Pumpkins, dispatched himself by taking an overdose of a new type of heroin which has arrived in New York. It is called Red Rum ("murder" spelled backwards) and is 70 per cent pure. Melvoin's death has not caused a slump in the demand for drugs. On Manhattan's Lower East Side, described as the "world capital of heroin", there has been a sharp increase in the number of young people looking for the high-grade Red Rum. If it was strong enough to kill a rock musician, it must be good, goes the theory.

Amid such macabre excitement, *Trainspotting* should rocket. Anti-drugs campaigners have added to the pre-release hype by depicting the "glamorisation" of heroin. Dr Paul Salkin, of the Psychiatric Treatment and Consultation Centre, said: "These movies have a powerful effect on susceptible adolescents and damaged adults."

The first 20 minutes of the film's soundtrack were re-recorded to help US audiences to cope with the Scottish dialogue.

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Second mass grave in Bosnia to be opened this week

UNITED NATIONS workers will open a mass grave this week at Nova Kasaba, in an area where up to 2,700 massacred Muslims are believed to have been hurriedly buried after the fall of Srebrenica.

A test dig of the site last month revealed six bodies dumped on top of one another, two with their hands bound, one with its skull crushed. Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, said earlier this year that satellite photographs indicated up to 2,700 victims were buried in graves along a valley near Nova Kasaba, 19 miles northwest of Srebrenica. The UN team hopes to have finished work at a site in Cerska, near Srebrenica, by tomorrow, having opened up a mass grave there on Monday. So far the remains of 75 men have been exhumed from this first site, and investigators believe another 30 to 40 are still to be recovered there. Once all the bodies have been exhumed, they will be taken to a mortuary in Tuzla for identification and examined by pathologists to gather further evidence for the war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Between 3,000 and 8,000 men are believed to have been killed and buried in mass graves around eastern Bosnia after the formerly Muslim-majority town fell to the Serbs on July 11 last year.

"It will take months, years, to identify the bodies," Dr William Haglund, head of the UN team, said. "Many will never be identified."

The work is daunting. For one black American soldier serving with IFOR, the international implementation force, patrolling the Cerska site proved too much as night fell. From Mississippi, he had voodoo beliefs and the fears aroused by the skulls and bones were something that no M16 could deal with. It was not until his sergeant, a Vietnam veteran, ordered him out of the sanctuary of a Humvee that he stood guard on the track above the bodies.

The Serbs in eastern Bosnia have their own cult of the dead. Villagers around Srebrenica still believe in vampires and ghosts. Hun-



Anthony Loyd reports from Cerska on the grim tasks facing war crimes investigators uncovering the remains of thousands of Muslim victims

dreds of bodies lie unattended. There is something deeply disturbing in finding bleached white skulls, bones and rags in the summer foliage at one's feet, and sensing the terror these individuals experienced. No war crimes investigation team seeks these bodies, as their presence is superfluous to the focus of the investigation on specific sites of execution, and it seems that for these dead there will be neither justice nor even a grave. One such skeleton lies at the track junction leading to the site being exhumed at Cerska. At



Haglund: presides over team of specialists

some point, this man had been bound with wire to a small concrete pillar near the verge, presumably to have something done to him with knives. The investigators digging at Cerska are pragmatic and compassionate. Drawn from Physicians for Human Rights, a Boston-based organisation that brings together specialists required for such an investigation — archaeologists, doctors, anthropologists, pathologists, mine experts — the small team works with sensitivity. "These are the dead," Dr Haglund said. "They have

been silent for a year, and by our work they now have the chance to tell us through their bodies the story of what happened here."

What happened is becoming clearly visible from the evidence of bullet casings (many stamped '1994'), the absence of any military clothing, the wire wrapped around hands and arms, and the multiple gunshot injuries to each corpse: last July, more than 100 Muslim civilian men were lined up at the edge of the track at Cerska and shot by Serbs standing behind them. Their bodies tumbled over the edge of the bank and were covered with earth.

Dr Haglund, 53, a bearded American, cuts an academic figure, wearing a shirt and tie whatever the heat. A magnifying glass and scissors swing from a chain round his neck. A small figure, he presides over his team with methodical punctiliousness. They, for their part, appear to do most of their work in silence.

"They are used to digging mass graves," the doctor said. "Emotion may be put aside as they do their work, but they still feel shocked with the terrifying thing: the circumstances of how these people were killed. We know they were defenceless, many had wire tied around their hands, and that personalises it."

The work is grim and laborious, and the team members claim never to lose their awareness of the smell. High-tech equipment helps them to map the site, but locating the exact positions of the bodies before exhumation is done with a metal probe. Almost 5ft long and topped with a T-bar handle, it is pushed into the ground, withdrawn and sniffed. "The smell just knocks you over sometimes," one investigator said. "You might push it 10cm one way and it's just metal, then 10cm another and... oh boy."

Peking is accused of 'cultural genocide'

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, yesterday accused China of conducting a policy of cultural genocide in its attempt to crush the Tibetan people.

The Buddhist leader, who is revered as a "God King" by six million Tibetans, told British MPs that his people "are being marginalised and discriminated against in the face of creeping Sino-civilisation".

Speaking at the invitation of the all-party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, the Dalai Lama said the oppression of Tibet was an issue of "colonial rule".

The Dalai Lama said he was willing to hold talks with China on the future of Tibet. "As soon as there is a public indication from the Chinese Government, I am ready to negotiate without any precondition," he said.

But his appeal for "urgent intervention by the international community" prompted a swift rebuke from the Chinese authorities, who accused Britain of aiding and abetting attempts by the Buddhist leader to "split the motherland and undermine the ethnic harmony of China".

Cui Tiankai, a Chinese foreign affairs spokesman, said that the Dalai Lama's week-long visit — during



The Dalai Lama at the House of Commons yesterday, where he urged the international community to help Tibet

which he will meet Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary — would have "adverse effects on Sino-British relations".

Since the Chinese invasion in 1949, hundreds of thousands of Chinese have migrated to the Himalayan plateau. "The destruction of cultural artefacts and traditions, cou-

pled with the mass influx of Chinese into Tibet, amounts to cultural genocide," the Dalai Lama said.

He told MPs that the "next few years will be crucial in bringing about negotiations between us and the Chinese Government". This was the only way to promote a peaceful settlement "and not, as China would have it, through

force, intimidation and popular transfer," he added.

The Dalai Lama said that Tibet was an ancient nation with a unique culture and civilisation which was disappearing fast. "In endeavouring to protect my nation from this catastrophe, I have always sought to be guided by realism, moderation and patience," he said. "However, it

has become clear that our efforts alone are not sufficient to bring the Chinese Government to the negotiating table. I am left with no other choice but to appeal to the international community for urgent intervention and action on behalf of my people," he added.

Leading article, page 17

Verona's silent tenor saved by voice-over

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN opera critics yesterday praised the Russian tenor Sergei Larin for miming a performance of Don José in Bizet's *Carmen* after losing his voice. He was rescued by a volunteer from the audience who sang the lyrics from the orchestra pit.

Larin, 39, was struck dumb with laryngitis at the end of the second act during the first night at the Roman Arena of Verona on Sunday. Some 15,000 people were watching the performance directed by Franco Zeffirelli.

A doctor gave the stricken singer an injection and he reappeared for the third act.

But after singing only a few notes, his affliction returned and he switched desperately into falsetto, bowing as the audience burst into sympathetic applause. A search for the stand-in revealed he had vanished — for dinner.

When all seemed lost, an American singer, John Horton Murray, came forward from the audience. "I know that part, I am going to sing it at the Metropolitan next autumn," Mr Murray, 34, said. And *Carmen* duly resumed.

Mr Murray said he had almost missed the opera after he was unable to find a hotel room in Verona.



Notat: her victory has angered leftwingers

Health job for Juppé ally

Paris: The "Iron Lady" of French unions, Nicole Notat, 48, yesterday outmanoeuvred male colleagues to win the presidency of the National Sickness Insurance Fund, one of the most powerful posts in the national health care system (Adam Sage writes).

Mme Notat's moderate centre-left union ousted rivals from the post. Her victory enraged left-wing organisations but was welcomed by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, who sees her as an ally in his bid to cut the Fr48 billion (£6 billion) welfare deficit.

US death penalty attacked as racist

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is applying the death penalty in a racist, "wanton and freakish" manner, and offenders facing capital punishment are not assured of a fair trial, a respected group of independent judges and lawyers said in Geneva yesterday.

In America, the report drew swift reaction from the black civil rights movement, which said it exemplified a lack of political will in the Clinton Administration to deal with the issue of the death penalty.

The Geneva report, drawn up by the International Commission of Jurists after a fact-finding mission to America earlier this year, says growing public pressure to clamp down on crime through capital punishment is increasing the chance of miscarriages of justice. It says 82 per cent of defendants are accused of murdering whites, and far the majority are poor. It adds that 40 per cent of those executed between 1973 and 1995 were of African-American, Hispanic, or American Indian origin.

The four senior jurists, from

Australia, India, Nigeria and Sweden, who conducted the mission, say they were particularly disturbed by the political motivations of judges and district attorneys. In the 36 states where capital punishment is enforced, these officials "are elected quite often on the basis of their performance or promise of rigorously seeking out the death penalty".

The report continues: "The mission finds that the prospect of elected judges bending to political pressures in capital punishment cases is both real as well as dangerous to the principle of fair and impartial tribunals."

Speaking from New York, Kica Matos of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, said: "This report is absolutely correct. The death penalty in the United States is about race, arbitrariness and economic status. You rarely find a rich white person on death row and the Administration is doing absolutely nothing to change matters because this is an election year."

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Monsoon flooding kills 200

Guwahati, India: Flooding and landslides have killed up to 200 people and made about 2.2 million homeless in north-east India and north Bangladesh, and monsoon rains are continuing to lash the region, officials said yesterday.

Officials in the Indian tea and oil-rich state of Assam said two weeks of flooding had claimed 23 lives there and forced 1.7 million people from their homes.

In the eastern sector of West Bengal state, at least 70 people have been killed and 350,000 made homeless by floods or mudslides. (Reuters)

Rebel MiG pilot defects to Kabul

Kabul: A pilot from the rebel Taliban Islamic militia, which is fighting to topple the Afghan Government, has defected to government forces with a missile-armed MiG21 jet. Abdul Jalil, who said he was the deputy commander of the Taliban air force, has now been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general. The Taliban forces have been besieging Kabul, the Afghan capital, since last October. (Reuters)

Saddam family members 'held'

Cairo: In a struggle within Iraq's ruling family, President Saddam Hussein has detained a nephew and put a son-in-law under house arrest, the Tehran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said. The claim follows a reported coup attempt last month in which at least 50 officers were arrested. (AP)

Number one

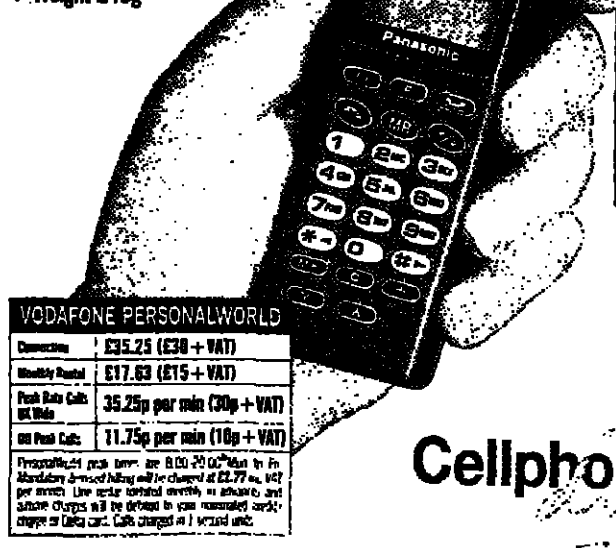
Bombay: Ciprian Manolescu, 17, a Romanian, beat 429 teenagers from 75 countries to top the 37th International Mathematical Olympiad with a perfect score. The organisers announced here. (Reuters)

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Rollercoaster politics leaves Arkansas gasping at Governor's long goodbye



Tucker: finally kept his promise to resign

By TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN A series of reversals, stunning even by the chaotic standards of Arkansas politics, President Clinton's Democratic successor as state Governor effectively held the office hostage, was threatened with impeachment and finally kept his promise to resign.

Governor Jim Tucker, one of three Clinton associates to have been found guilty of fraud and conspiracy in the first Whitewater-related trial, had promised he would stand down this week as required by the Arkansas constitution.

Five minutes before Lieutenant-Governor Mike Huckabee was to be sworn in on Monday as only the third-ever Republican chief executive, however, Mr Tucker shocked the general assembly with a letter that said he was leaving office only temporarily, pending the outcome of an appeal on his convictions.

He said Mr Huckabee would be installed as acting governor only until the appeal was complete, while he himself would take disability leave. Mr Tucker said his conviction would be overturned once it had been publicly acknowledged that, during the course of his trial, a female member of the jury

had married a man to whom the Governor had denied clemency on a 40-year sentence for cocaine possession in 1992.

"I don't know how I would explain two weeks from now if the elimination of the verdict would eliminate the reason for my resignation," said Mr Tucker. "I know there are people who will say, 'You ought to get this over with and not allow it to go on any longer'. But I don't think that is in the best interest of the people of Arkansas."

Mr Tucker then sent a further letter from his office in which he withdrew his original resignation altogether, forcing Mr Huckabee, who described the incident as a

"very critical moment for Arkansas", to announce that he would begin impeachment proceedings against the Governor if he did not relinquish his position immediately. Finally, Mr Tucker issued a handwritten statement that he would resign without condition.

But his decision not to step aside quietly only focused American minds once more on the bizarre politics of Mr Clinton's home state, the issue of Whitewater and whether Mr Tucker is merely a victim of presidential politics.

The convictions of Mr Tucker and Jim and Susan McDougal, the Clintons' partners in the failed Whitewater land venture, had

brought the scandal to the threshold of the White House and dented the President's poll ratings for several weeks. The spectacle in Little Rock will only renew interest in both Mr Tucker and his links to the Clintons.

Scenes of frenzy in the Arkansas assembly came only hours before the President gave a television interview in which he maintained the Whitewater investigation had been "highly politicised" and had produced no evidence that either he or his wife, Hillary, were involved in any criminal activity.

"This has gotten a lot of exhaustive attention, perhaps more than it deserves, and every reading of the

evidence ... fails to demonstrate any wrongdoing by either one of us," Mr Clinton said.

Appearing on MSNBC, the new cable and Internet news service, Mr Clinton added: "I think the American people are fair-minded. They've heard a lot more negative than positive."

Taking questions from the interviewer, Tim Brokaw, callers and e-mail via the Internet, Mr Clinton also praised his Republican rival, Bob Dole, for his integrity.

"I believe he really loves our country. He was hurt very badly in the Second World War. He could have been embittered. He could have walked away."

Netanyahu eases West Bank curbs before Cairo visit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government yesterday announced plans to ease the 19-week blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which has kept tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs and caused widespread economic hardship.

The move, announced after a Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, was seen as a sweetener in advance of Benjamin Netanyahu's first trip as Prime Minister to the Arab world tomorrow, when he will hold crucial talks with President Mubarak in Cairo. This will be followed next week by talks in Jordan with King Hussein.

The Cabinet statement yesterday did not give details of how the restrictions — imposed after a string of lethal suicide bomb attacks — would be lifted, saying only that the move was intended "to alleviate

the economic distress of the Palestinians". Political sources said the move was in line with Mr Netanyahu's policy of improving Palestinian living conditions, while denying them any chance of self-determination.

According to government officials, once the closure has been lifted completely, half the 200,000 foreign workers now employed in Israel will be expelled. The foreigners have upset many Jews for a number of reasons, ranging from their liaisons with Jewish women to the 'Thai workers' supposed habit of hunting and eating domestic animals.

Some of the restrictions were lifted in recent weeks to allow several thousand middle-aged, married Palestinian workers to return to their jobs in Israel. In peak times, more than 100,000 people from the

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip worked in Israel.

Diplomats predicted after the election of Mr Netanyahu that he would lift the closure imposed by his Labour predecessor, Shimon Peres, both to try to improve living conditions for Palestinians, many of whom are on the breadline, and also because his Likud Party regarded the closure as indirectly defining boundaries for a potential Palestinian state, which it opposes.

Shortly before lifting of the closure was announced, Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, snubbed Mr Netanyahu's senior political adviser, Dore Gold, who had attempted to arrange a meeting with him. Officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said Mr Arafat rejected the contact because he did not want Mr Netanyahu to exploit contacts with the Palestinians to ease what are expected to be tough introductory talks with the Egyptian leader.

On the eve of Mr Netanyahu's planned visit, already condemned in advance by Egyptian journalists, Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said that "dangerous consequences" would result from Israel's determination to abandon the formula of "land for peace". At a Cairo summit last month, 21 members of the Arab League warned Israel that steps to normalisation could be reversed if there was no progress in peace talks.

Israeli security sources yesterday told the Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz* that Palestinian anger at the Government's new hardline policy had already provoked popular activity against Israeli forces in the occupied lands. "As of yet, there is not an intifada," the sources said, "but there is ferment in the field."



General Liu Zhenwu inspects a guard of honour in Hong Kong yesterday at the start of his tour of inspection

Chinese commander visits Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

IN THE first visit to Hong Kong by a senior Chinese military officer, General Liu Zhenwu, who will be the commander of the incoming garrison when the British Army leaves in less than a

year, yesterday began a three-day tour inspecting military facilities.

Major-General Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces in Hong Kong, who was General Liu's guest in May, said: "This is a very significant trip, representing the continuing liaison we've

been aiming at for the past two years." It is expected that the future Chinese garrison will consist of about 9,000 troops, the same size as the British force until it was reduced recently to 3,000.

General Liu, 50, said he was happy to be in Hong Kong and extended greetings to

"compatriots" there. He is an experienced infantry commander but does not speak English. Observers view him as competent and professional; where all officers are Communist Party members, this means he has not made significant ideological mistakes.

Mercenary traits in army shock Israelis

JERUSALEM: Israelis have been stunned by publication of official salary figures showing that career army officers, always regarded as selfless and austere heroes, are in fact spectacularly well paid (writes Christopher Walker).

The figures were released by the Finance Ministry under Dan Meridor, the new right-wing minister, to silence a near-mutiny within the forces over draconian cuts in defence spending. These are part of the new Government's attempt to slash nearly 5 billion shekels (about £1 billion) from the annual budget.

The salaries were divulged to the Knesset's influential Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee during a session in camera. They show that a major-general earns about

£5,500 a month, about five times the Israeli average. On retirement, which can be as early as 42, a major-general receives a grant equivalent to £280,000, according to the Finance Ministry presentation. According to the ministry, which finds itself struggling to rescue the country from economic crisis, lower-ranking officers earn somewhat less, but still well above the standard Israeli salary.

In an effort to hit back, the military insists that the figures have been deliberately inflated and that true earnings are lower. A major-general, the army claims, could receive a lump sum of only £64,000 on retirement and then a monthly pension of about £3,000.

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The price of a haircut divides the sexes but it may be a snip closer soon

New York at equality's cutting edge

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ONE OF the great inequalities between the sexes may soon be ended in New York. The city intends to ban hairdressers from charging women more than men to have their regular wash and blow dry.

The cost of a woman's hairdo, a source of bemusement to husbands across the world, was investigated by New York's department of consumer affairs. Its undercover agents discovered that hair salons regularly charged women some 20 per cent more than men for near-identical treatments.

A half-inch cut, wash and blow dry at Natalie's Unisex parlour in mid-Manhattan, for instance, cost \$31 (£20) for a woman and \$19 (£12) for a man. That compares with an average in Britain of about £16 for a woman and £10 for a man.

In a survey conducted by the

department, 50 per cent of hairdressers raised their prices for women. As a result, the city council will in September debate a law which bans tonorial "gender price discrimination". The law may at first be enforceable only in unisex establishments, but a test case could make life interesting for some women-only hair salons.

The *New York Times* recently reported the arrival of the \$500 (£320) hairdo, courtesy of the Frederic Fekkai salon. Mr Fekkai, deft with compliments and possessed of a spray-on smile, has bookings for the next year, but his charges are about \$450 in excess of the top rate for barbers.

There was a similar move some years ago against discrimination at dry cleaners, which were found to be charging more to clean women's

shirts than men's. The habit has now been stopped.

Michael Obadia, a hairdresser in the Trump Tower, suggested that the difference in prices reflected the greater difficulty of cutting a woman's hair. "It is a style, an image, a look, a projection," he said. "There are so many styles for women." He predicted that prices for women would not drop but instead rise for men. Another cutter, requesting anonymity, said women were charged more because they talked more while having their hair done, thus taking up more time.

Women's salons also have a greater number of assistants to tip. Lucy Nathanson, an architectural assistant, said yesterday: "You have to give five bucks to the washer, the setter, the cutter and maybe the doorman. It gets kind of dear."

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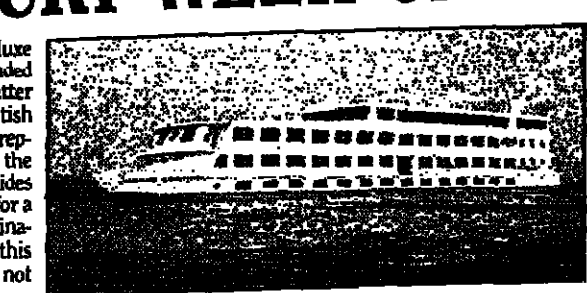
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Paul Frith is welcomed to the mainstream market by fashion editor Iain R. Webb



Fine strappy dress, £35

"IT'S far more difficult to design for a high street store than for my own label because I can do more or less anything I want for my own catwalk collection," says fashion designer Paul Frith as he unveils the collection of just under 20 pieces he has produced for the Bhs chain. He is the latest designer to be tempted by the mainstream market and the challenge has paid off.

Frith has already produced a pre-Christmas collection for the company and has begun working on another to go into the stores in spring 1997. Both he and Bhs seem pretty pleased with the results. "The association with a high street store is an opportunity to put my clothes on the backs of more people," says Frith.

"We had sponsored Paul's collections for the past two seasons so the capsule collection marks a natural progression," says Sheena MacDonald, the design director at Bhs. The company is committed to supporting new design talent and for the past two years has sponsored a graduate fashion week. From the wealth of home-grown talent Frith, it seems, was an easy choice. "His style matches our own," says MacDonald.

CERTAINLY Frith's brand of easy glamour has made him popular with *Vogue* magazine, a fact which can't have gone unnoticed with the team at Bhs. "He is at his best designing for sophisticated women," says Anna Harvey, the deputy editor of *Vogue*. "Women who like clean lines, simple tailoring and beautiful fabrics. I love his pure approach."

Which is exactly what he has given Bhs — a collection of no-nonsense pieces with a classy touch. "The original brief was not very specific," says Frith. "They wanted a flavour of what I do. I am more concerned with shape than detail. I want women to think, hey, this is a great jacket, pair of pants, or dress. I wanted to make a collection of clothes which totally work together."

For this first collection Frith shunned colour — everything is black except for one or two little tops in white — the complete opposite of his own mainline collection for this summer which is predominantly cream and white with a few bright highlights. "This was an attempt to give the collection a very definite image, a sophisticated look. Black is the favoured colour of



Fitted cap-sleeve dress, £25. Black kitten heel slingbacks, £115 (£45 in sale). Russell & Bromley, selected branches nationwide

the fashion pack. It's chic. It's very high street to go for the colours of the moment," he says.

Without colour, fabric became important and was the starting point for his designs. Frith told them which fabrics he wanted to use — an assortment of satins, taffeta, wool, jersey rib and stretch velour — and the Bhs team sourced them from their manufacturers. This immediately kept costs down and enables the store to price Frith's designs for little more than £10

above their expected price tags — dresses average £55 and jackets cost around £80. Not bad for a designer item.

Dresses are important. "I have simply interpreted them for a wider market," he says. "A shaped jacket isn't cut quite as severely as I might, but it still follows my line. I wanted to make beautiful garments which were, within the confines of price and profile, as close as possible to clothes I would produce myself."

What Frith has also done is to afford Bhs a fresh eye and a

considered opinion, and it's rubbing off. Already there is talk of certain of his styles being incorporated into the main Bhs line later in the season.

"In the past there was an inconsistency of handwriting," says Madeline Moran, a womenswear design consultant, who worked closely with Frith on the project. "We were all over the place. There would be a great look next to a nasty polyester blouse. Having him on the team made everyone feel special."



Jersey rib shirt, £35; satin bra, from a selection at Bhs; stretch satin skirt, £35



Frith's mainline collection, predominantly cream and white

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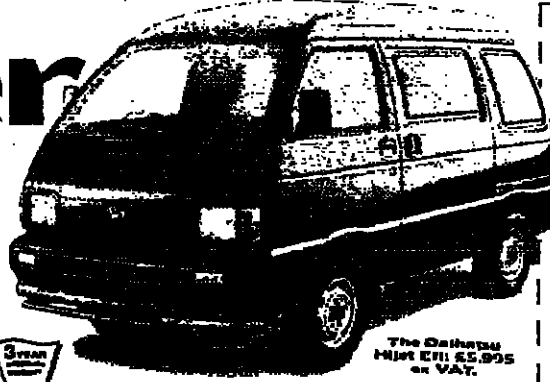
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The man who has given his life to love and Africa

Mary Riddell meets the legendary wildlife film-maker Alan Root

To date, Alan Root has had a large segment of his leg torn off by a 30st gorilla, his bottom chewed by a leopard and his arm readjusted by an angry hippopotamus. He also lost a finger, and almost his life, when he was bitten by a puff adder.

And who, you are wondering, is Alan Root, or what remains of him? Imagine a venerable Indiana Jones in wire-rimmed spectacles.

His talent as a wildlife film-maker rivals or exceeds that of Cousteau or Attenborough. His *Survival Special* programmes have won him countless awards and made £43 million for Anglia Television, and his disdain for publicity is as legendary as his talent. Who else, for heaven's sake, could get an Oscar nomination for a film about an anthill?

We meet in a London hotel, where Root — tanned, scarred and sixtyish — sips whisky and looks as out of place as a rhino at a garden party. Just back from a decade filming in the uncharted rainforests of Zaire (a habitat he clearly finds more congenial), he is here to talk about his new film, *A Space In The Heart Of Africa*, which will be screened next Wednesday on ITV.

"It was a boyhood dream. I grew up in East Africa, and the west always seemed wilder and more exciting. But I left it until late, because I knew it would take up to ten years to get all those strange, rare creatures."

Root's odyssey is an extraordinary story on two levels. The first is the sheer size of the problems he had to overcome. He travelled by plane and trail bike, and when the roughest paths ran out, he walked.

His targets were animals so rare that some had never been seen before. The catlike fishing genet had been identified only by bones found 30 years ago until Root tracked it down and filmed it.

Finding the Congo peacock, last seen 50 years ago, demanded four days' trek by motorbike and a further two on foot before Root found a Zairean who knew the species. "He said: 'Oh yes, I ate one of those a while ago.'"

Born in London and evacuated in the war to Wiltshire, Root's early passion for bird-watching was a modest training for the problems he was to encounter after his family moved to Kenya and he, self-taught, began his film career.

On the latest expedition, he was bitten by a snake (only medium-venomous), crashed his Cessna four-seater (no one hurt but the wheels and wings were ripped off), and ended up clinging to a plank of wood and his motorbike when a bridge broke underneath him.

The crocodile-infested river ran 30ft below, and help took an hour to arrive, but Root, although horrified at the thought of losing his work, was calm in the knowledge that he again faced death. "I suppose I am a compulsive risk-taker. But any of the animals which have bitten me in the past could have killed me, and none of them did. Really, they were saying 'Shove off, I'm not fearful, because taking risks is part of the job, and anyway, I wouldn't mind dying that

way. I'd rather not, but it wouldn't be a horrible way to die."

But death, or fear of it, overshadowed the making of his film. The second level of Root's extraordinary story is the fact that he undertook the last part of his crusade knowing that his wife might not survive its completion.

Several years ago, he and his first wife, Joan — with whom he ran safaris — divorced. "We were together too much — never out of each other's sight and sound. Plus I was totally self-centred and never thought about the relationship."

Shortly afterwards, he remarried. Jenny was a local potter whose work he had admired for years. She had also been told, not long before their wedding, that she had leukaemia and 18 months to live.

"She's been just incredible. She's not well now, and it's been very hard for her. I have much more admiration for her sort of toughness than for mine. I was worried about her health, but I had to get through the Zaire project — so much money had been invested in it, and it was something I had wanted to do for all of my life."

"I was commuting insanely: flying back and forth from Nairobi to Zaire in my small plane, but both of us knew this was something I couldn't just turn my back on. It will probably be my last major film."

As always, he filmed, produced and edited his work, as well as writing the script and choosing his favourite actor, Ian Holm, to read it. He so disliked the production of a film on the Galapagos, narrated by the Duke of Edinburgh, that he demanded full control of his *Survival* programmes and resigned when he did not get it.

Root spent two years with the BBC before the telegram arrived from his former employers. "Lassie, Come Home," it said. And he did. Now, years on, he is at last going home; this time for good.

From now on, he will live with Jenny in their home on the outskirts of Nairobi, grateful that millions of people have seen his Africa, while he has had his years of solitude. "I hate actually showing the country to people. I used to run photographic safaris, and I never liked having the paying dudes along."

If tourists were tiresome, Hollywood seemed worse. He consented to do only one film, *Gorillas in the Mist*, on the understanding that his sequences would be filmed in a separate country where he could work alone with his animals.

Root's ultimate fulfilment was to track down the unseen and the elusive. It was less a dream than an obsession, and it has left him at last. He will never again work to the same pitch, and he will not mourn it. "I've done my bit for posterity, if that doesn't sound too grand. I'm not burning to get on to the next job any more, and a lot of that is being married to Jenny. I have found at last that there is something more important than work."

He, after all, merely filmed survival. She, against all the odds, achieved it.



Root with his wife Jenny



Close encounter: Alan Root relaxes on an African photo safari



Fine focus: Root takes a close-up shot of one of his wildlife subjects



Handle with extra care: a crocodile is caught for the camera

Siamese twins present a unique dilemma

The loneliest people alive

It is not simply for their rarity that Siamese twins attract national attention. They awaken a macabre curiosity in those who contemplate them, a fascinated horror at the thought of a future faced as part of an indissoluble pair. In a culture which believes in the uniqueness of human personality, a being that is more than one and yet less than two can be seen as a marvel of nature or a metaphysical insult.

Their eerie interpenetration encapsulates the drama of individual life, the struggle for freedom of self against the demands of society. Siamese twins encompass the ambiguities of a paradoxical world, they illustrate Coleridge's "warring contraries of life", constantly invading and repelling each other. They represent the puzzling play of harmony and interfusion against discord and separation.

History tells of several celebrated pairs of Siamese twins. There were the Biddenden maids, Mary and Eliza Chulkhurst. They lived in Kent in the early years of this century and when they died they left 20 acres of land, part of the rent of which was to be spent each year distributing cakes baked in their image to itinerants who passed through the village. There were the two sisters, Millie Christine, born in North Carolina in 1851. Millie sang soprano and Christine contralto, while they accompanied themselves on the guitar. The Godino brothers, who were born in the Philippines in 1908, became proficient at swimming, tennis and golf.

But the popular term Siamese twins originates from the celebrated brothers, Chang and Eng, who were born in Siam (now Thailand) in 1811. Joined at the base of their chests by a thick, fleshy ligament, they lived a "normal" life until the age of 13 when, spotted by a shrewd Scottish trader, they were tempted over to America. For 15 years they were exhibited in fairs and sideshows all over the United States under the banner *lusus naturae* — the sport of nature.

In their early years, Chang and Eng seemed mentally as well as physically indivisible. They referred to themselves in letters as "I". What one disliked eating, the other rejected. When one felt estivated, the other did too. They would fall ill together and then recover, both on the same day. Eventually they married two sisters and organising their lives as their mother had taught them — taking it in turns week by week to take control of what they would do — they would visit their separate wives and homes. Between them they fathered 21 children.

But after their marriages, each began to feel the other an albatross about his neck. Chang would irk his brother by sitting up all night playing poker. He took to whisky and his brother — who was teetotal — would find himself chained in uncomfortable proximity to a violent drunk.

In addition to this they began to find their life as exhibits repugnant. Where audiences had found them charming in their youth, they found them in middle age increasingly risible and repulsive. The twins consulted a surgeon about separation, but were warned that it would result in their deaths.

Chang eventually grew increasingly ill. Partially paralysed by a stroke, he had to be dragged around by his brother. Finally, Eng woke up one night feeling sick. His twin lay chill and dead beside him. He drew his brother into his arms. "May the Lord have mercy on my soul," he said, before leaning back on his pillows he too died. They were buried beneath a double headstone.

In a modern era, Chang



RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

and Eng could easily have been separated. They, like the majority of conjoined twins, were united only by their body walls. But sometimes the connection is visceral. The twin girls born in Glasgow last week shared both a heart and a liver. In cases like this, a painful moral dilemma arises. Parents and surgeons must choose whether to leave the twins to grow up intact, or whether one should be sacrificed so that the other can live.

This was the case with the Hensel sisters, who live in a small town in the American Midwest. Sharing a bloodstream and all organs from

which leads to severe disablement and, often, a life confined to a wheelchair. Such mutilations seem sad as a ruin. The Biddenden Maids sagely refused to be separated. "As we came together, so shall we go together," they said.

The civilised world is outraged by the very suggestion of the fairground freakshow. Yet we roll up to marvel at the wonders of science. Though their stories are often dressed up as tales of parental love and fortitude, conjoined twins, in certain cases, seem to have become exhibits for the demonstration of modern medical magic. They have become surgical sideshows.

The ethical dilemma in cases in which children are born critically impaired is less that of whether the severely handicapped have a right to life, as whether parents have a right to choose for their children a life of crippling pain.

In nature, there are no authentic records of a double mammal having survived into adulthood in the wild state. Only reptiles and fish have survived in this way. The parents of the conjoined sisters born in Glasgow made a generous and humane — though undoubtedly painful — decision, when they decided that their children should not be separated. After a serious deterioration of condi-



Eng and Chang found life increasingly repugnant

tion, the twins were taken off ventilation. The parents allowed their daughters to die with the dignity which a human being deserves.

Now six years old and inseparably linked, they live apparently happy and healthy lives. They use humour to outface the problems they encounter in their almost unimaginably intimate lives.

They are two very different people in character, with different opinions, tastes and dreams. Undoubtedly their bravery and determination has much to teach about the strength and power of human co-operation. But their future as they reach puberty will hold severe trials.

The tragic words of a pair of conjoined twins in Russia ring a cruel knell: "We are the loneliest people alive," they said.

Yet even if separation can be guaranteed safe, the dilemmas posed are still harrowing. Multiple surgery sends a child out on a pathway of pain

IT SEEMS possible that Diana, Princess of Wales, though divorced of the title HRH, resigned the patronage of more than one hundred charities last night in an imperious fit of pique. If so, the Queen of Hearts is casting aside her caring role in as cavalier a fashion as she relinquished her regiments. It is telling that she should have retained her more material royal regalia — her brooches and bracelets, pearls and pendants.

Would it be cynical to suggest that her interest in these charities was purely a matter of image all along? If so, perhaps Relate, the marriage guidance counselling service, will not be alone in breathing a sigh of relief to have lost so inappropriate a patron.

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Alan Coren



■ Do I scent, at long last, a whiff of literary celebrity?

The moving finger writes; and, having writ, moves on. Which is to say that had that resonant line been writ today, and had its encompassing poem been as successful as it was yesterday, then Edward Fitzgerald's finger would immediately have moved on to nationwide chains of Khayyam Kutprize Karpet warehouses, Khayyam Kosy Karavanserai motels, and Khayyam InKar Kwiksax outlets, where the peckish driver could enjoy a drive-in flask of wine and loaf of bread without even getting out from behind the wheel.

For literature itself has moved on, and if, in 1996, a book is to be worth writing, it has to end up as far more than a mere half-pound of assorted syllables gummed down one edge. It has to be the fulcrum of a hundred lucrative spin-offs, and not simply films or television series or Lloyd Webber musicals and their Original Cast Albums either. It has to do everything it commercially can, from launching itself at Christmas as a hilarious board game for funlovers from nine to ninety, to endorsing a fabulous range of pret-à-porter cocktail frocks for the fashionable bibliophile. These days, when we literary theorists speak of a core text, we mean that dull little oblong thing which sets the whole glittering ball rolling.

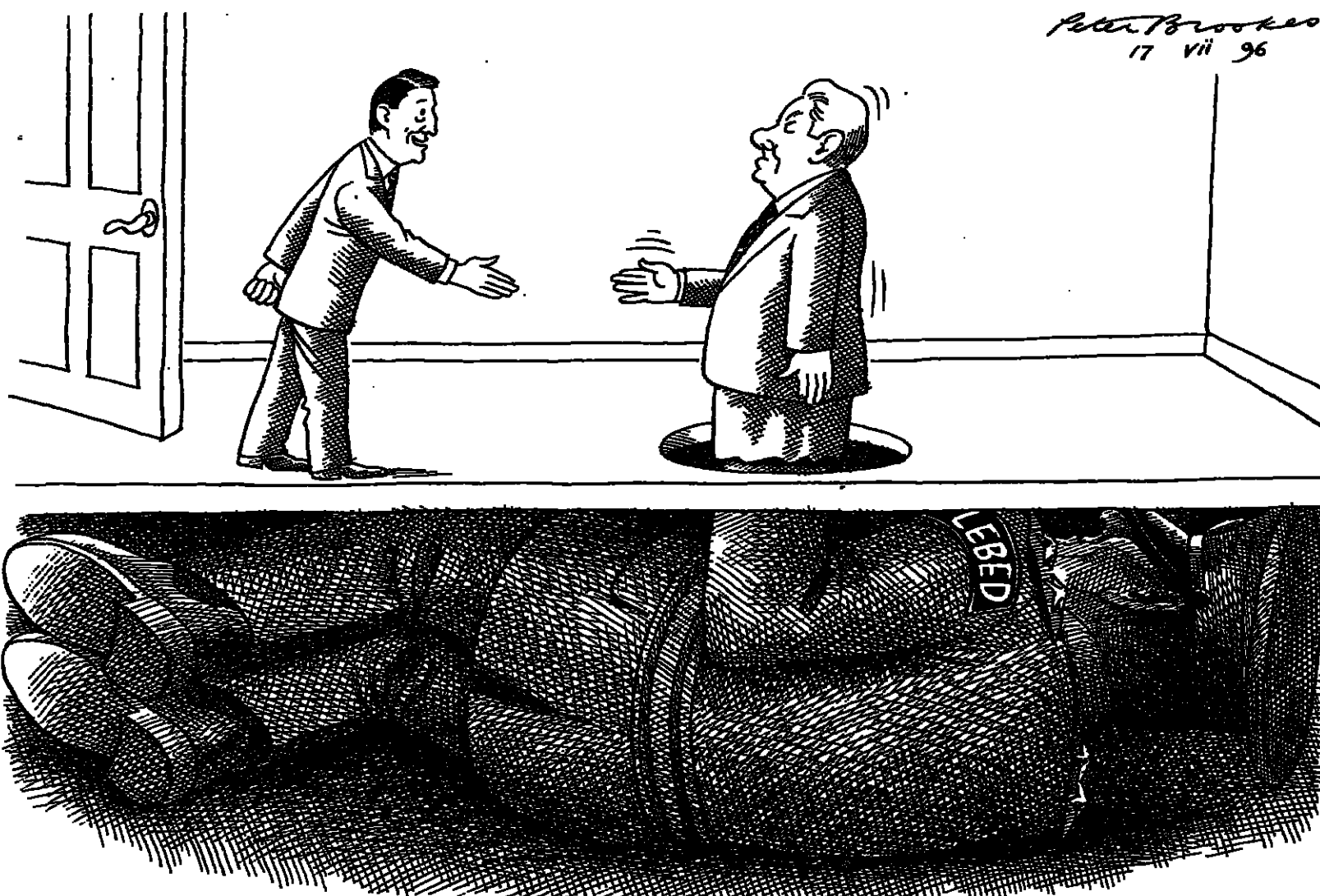
Our scene now shifts, as the more pulse-fingering booklovers among you may already have guessed, to Provence. Well, to a sort of Provence: the sort of Provence where a major typist can sit in the sun, drink in, along with a chilled bottle or three of Bandol blanc, the wondrous world about him — its skies, its hills, its fields, its rivers, its villages, its incomparable flora and fauna, its myriad people — reflect deeply for a couple of moments, and then, dropping his eyes to his lap-top, begin banging out a book which bears hardly any resemblance at all to the reality he has just been observing, in order to commend itself to four million paying customers who require only that their fantasies be vindicated. This accomplished, and the result faxed to his publishers, the typist has only to sit back again and wait for the lucrative offer to start spinning, from sitcoms and miniseries to Weekend Provincial Breaks (in association with Another Newspaper) and Dream Provincial Cottages To Be Won (in association with Another Newspaper Still).

And now, as we heard yesterday, to a fragrance. For the great French parfumeur Fragonard — no relation to the painter as far as I know, but you can't be sure of anything these days, art may be just the same as literature, you can probably buy Van Gogh ear-plugs — has just launched a scent called A Year In Provence, endorsed from New York, where he now shrewdly lives, by Mr Mayle, to whom numerous smells were flown for his approval, possibly, I'm only guessing, with a little input from his accountant, too. Niffed, it apparently evokes Provence, and I say OK, fine, goodbye and good luck to it: for I now have other fish to fry.

I now offer to incorporate them into my own forthcoming perfume. For I, those with uneven piano legs may recall, once wrote a book called A Year in Crickwood. It did not, sadly, generate any spin-offs at all: no tabloid offered Weekend Crickwood Breaks or Dream Crickwood Cottages, there were no glossy Crickwood Calendars or Traditional Crickwood Recipe Cards, no ranges of Authentic Crickwood Peasant Smocks, no Extra Virgin Crickwood Olive Oil — nothing but a book in a window waiting stoically to be reduced from £12.95.

I now know where we both went wrong. For while, I have to concede, there might be the odd promotional headache when it comes to pushing Crickwood cuisine, or Crickwood couture, or Crickwood wines, or even romantic holidays on the sunsoaked Crickwood Riviera, there is no question but that Crickwood evokes an irresistible fragrance all its own: a subtle blend of eod-batter and diesel, of teeming skip and doggy verge, of squattered walkway and shredded tyre, of sun-dried lager and cloven binliner, of a thousand other more elusive constituents of that peripatetic perfume which few can sniff without the tears coming to their eyes, especially if the wind is blowing off Kilburn.

I shall ring Fragonard forthwith. I may become a literary giant yet.



AL GORE MEETS BORIS YELTSIN

Zulu lessons for Ulster

Only democracy can exorcise this tribal conflict — as it has done in Natal

Another summer and another "marching season". The strangled accents of Ulstermen trading insults, rasp across the radio waves. History that elsewhere rests with Guy Fawkes and the King of Spain's Beard is here, recalled with the thud of a bomb and the crack of an Armalite. Ulster returns each year to remind Britons of politics as original sin. How we would love to get shot of the place.

This year, even the incorrigible optimist must accept that a policy pursued for 20 years has collapsed. The policy is that of reform through direct rule. The present Prime Minister, John Major, has been its bravest and most determined advocate so far. He has tested it to destruction. But there can be no argument. The policy has not worked. The petrol bombs and barricades, the shootings and hysteria, the raucous name-calling and plumy admonitions of the past week are a stain on Britain's good name. The policy is finished, useless, dead. We have only its ghostly echo, Mr Major incanting on *Panorama* the umpteenth appeal to "centre opinion", and promising to "try and try and try again". Try what? Talk about talks... round-table negotiation... reconciliation... power-sharing... hope? Give us a break.

If a ruler has one obligation to the ruled, it is that of intelligence. British policy in Ulster is no longer intelligent. Direct rule has failed because, almost from the start in 1974, it removed from its foundations the one pre-requisite for success: the evolution of mature local leaders to take on the responsibilities of self-rule. Without that leadership there could be no local democracy. Without democracy there could be no consent to the sacrifices and disciplines necessary for an end to inter-communal violence. This is the First Law of Political Dynamics, and Britain has broken it.

Look across the world, from Palestine's East Bank to the shanty-towns of Natal, from the suburbs of Sarajevo to the favelas of Sao Paulo, and you will see no more glaring example of this law in action for inaction than last week in the fields of Drumcree. A British police chief with the might of a modern army at his back had to lead a phalanx of tribal primitives in hats and sashes across a patch of territory held sacred by their no less primitive foes hurling obscenities at them. This was not Papua New Guinea or upper Amazonia. This was 1990s Britain. These people have

social security numbers. Their children have league-table educations. But what did their rulers immediately argue about? Who tipped the wink to whom in the line of command so as to escape blame. Drumcree was a nadir in British public administration, a Field of the Cloth of Shame.

British colonial rule, which is what Northern Ireland has had for 20 years, has long been an ideological riddle between concepts of direct and indirect rule. Advocates of the latter, associated with the great Lord Lugard, held that good administration could only be sustained by building on local leadership. Undermine the war-lords of the Punjab or the emirs of Kano or the sultans of the Straits and you might as well go back to Surrey. Consent to British sovereignty had to be rooted in institutions and leaders on the ground. Sustain them and sovereignty was secure. Displace them and you could rule only through force, and not for long. Lugard won this argument and the British Empire outshone all rivals. Where he lost, as in Kenya, the outcome was bloody and tragic.

Last week there was much talk in London about the success of Nelson Mandela's Government in building political stability in the ruins of apartheid South Africa. Its greatest test has been in Natal, where the Zulu Inkatha party and the local African National Congress had engaged in inter-communal butchery for years. This did not stop with the arrival of democracy, but it is diminishing fast. At last month's elections, party leaders supported by local businesses pleaded for a renunciation of violence in favour of democracy. Chief Buthelezi and the ANC chief Jacob Zuma toured the province appealing for their followers to respect the ballot.

The central difference between Ulster and Natal is that the Natal elections were real, not synthetic, as are those of Ulster direct rule. David Trimble, Peter Robinson, John Hume and Gerry Adams have never exercised

governmental power, nor bid for it in any election. They are merely group representatives. For Buthelezi and Zuma, elections were about jobs, services, money, patronage, security. The South African constitution has (so far) respected the autonomy of provincial leaders. There is no outsider to hold the ring, no foreign policeman or peacemaker or arbiter. There is no John Major or Bill Clinton or Senator Mitchell. Local leadership alone has stood between Natal and mayhem, and has had to compromise accordingly. 'Nobody in Natal said that local democracy "must await the defeat of the men of violence".'

Democracy alone could exorcise that bloodshed.

In Ulster, British ministers believe the opposite. They have long maintained that any return of democracy to the province can only follow the defeat of terrorism. This lack of faith in democracy's strength and purpose is cynical. To the centralists of Westminster, democracy (whether in Scotland or Northern Ireland, or even London) is a mere bon-bon, a reward for being good. It is what a bountiful superior power awards to a subsidiary district.

I believe that in Northern Ireland, as in Natal and (we hope) in Bosnia, democracy is a potent force for peace. It offers the gate through which any mixed community must pass if it is to achieve stable peace. The contrast between the British Government's idea of democracy and that of the rest of the world could hardly be greater. In the fields of Drumcree, the British idea was found wanting.

The greatest loss that two decades of direct rule have brought to Northern Ireland is not the physical destruction, the deaths, the unemployment or commercial decay. It is the loss of a new political leadership. There are no new Humes, Trimbles, Paisleys, Adamses, except on a few district councils — councils neutered by Westminster to be no more than Leninist demagogues. And since

direct rulers carry the burden of compromise, local leaders need only defend group interests, as we saw again this week. For Mr Major to appeal on Monday to something he called "the centre" was plain daft. In political terms, he is the only centre. Direct rule reduces colonial politics to a conflict of extremes.

As for the caravanserai still gathered outside Stormont and known as the "peace process", this has yielded neither peace nor a process. It is what it always was, just another stage on which the old-timers could rehearse their routines. The Government could now send everyone home, but I doubt if it has the courage. The least we might expect is that it will prepare the one policy that makes any sense: abandoning all thought of a power-sharing executive or assembly at Stormont and returning to Northern Ireland's counties and cities the powers enjoyed by English local authorities up to 1979. These must include some tax-raising powers, and responsibility for jobs, housing and services. The outcome would be a mix of Nationalist and Unionist councils, thus dividing responsibility for the government of the province on a geographical basis.

This revival of local democracy is the one political innovation in Northern Ireland that offers any progress, any difference, any lasting contribution to peace. The initiative for this must lie with central government. But the initiative must be sincere. Ulster people must feel that, in voting, they are vesting real power in their local leaders, power to negotiate compromise and so accept responsibility for the outcome.

I find the intellectual collapse of the policy of direct rule not depressing but comforting. It is proof that there is no other route to inter-communal government than through democracy. You cannot order people to be kind to one another, even if you are a British Prime Minister or an American President. They must want it and seek it for themselves through the ballot. All that superior rulers can do is put in place the institutions to make this possible — and then withdraw.

Governors hate withdrawing. They cannot believe that other men, elected by other voters, can be quite so wise or quite so popular as they are. I have listened for years to the apologies of Ulster's direct rulers. It has always been an audition of the arrogance of power. This arrogance is now palpably futile. There is another way.

Simon Jenkins

bruise was all too evident on her shoulder. No domestic incident, this. "I've been practising with my husband's shotgun for our shooting holiday in Scotland," she explained. "I don't think I was holding it right."

Snapshot

THE PRINCESS OF Wales's hopes of shunning the limelight after removing her name from 100 charities may be short-lived. The two members of the royal paparazzi she most abhors are in publish the story of their endless run-ins with the Princess.

From their billet outside Kensington Palace yesterday, Mark

Saunders and Glenn Harvey — whose work includes the *Chillie* file — explained that their book *Dicing with Di* will "give the other side of the Princess."

"Every time she sees us now, she shouts at us," they say. "The whole book is an example of her extraordinary almost schizophrenic behaviour. She uses abusive language to us. We don't understand what her problem is with the press."

Unless, perhaps, it's with the paparazzi.

● More from Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, girl of the year and a triumph of hot pants over intellect. She was chatting last week to a group of Sir James Goldsmith's *Referendum Party* youths, who kept referring to "Sir James's party". Her bangs began to twitch. "Which Goldsmith party is that?" she asked the startled Clearasil squad. "I think I'm supposed to be going."

Bowling out

ANOTHER royal book in the pipeline purports to reveal the role of the Queen Mother in the abdication crisis. It's a family business: the author is one Jennifer Bowes-Lyon, her cousin, who once worked as a domestic cleaner and who lives in Tel Aviv.



Telling all: Bowes-Lyon

Wallis Simpson: My Life With David is billed as a personal account of the crisis as told to Jennifer's mother Fanny Rose, a confidante of the Duchess of Windsor in later life. "With remarkable honesty she reveals how the ill-fated relationship between herself and the Queen Mother became a bitter vendetta," says the publisher Smith Gryphon. The manuscript is being scrutinised by lawyers, and publication has been delayed until next year.

P.H.S.

Back to Edwardian values

The constitution is again at issue, says

Jonathan Clark

No subject of momentous importance could be guaranteed to kill a conversation like the constitution. Architecture, social security, beef, the NHS — all of these can be relied on to enlist popular passions. But the West Lothian question? The voting rights of hereditary peers in the House of Lords? The taxing powers of devolved assemblies? These are not the sort of questions that produce riots in Trafalgar Square.

Yet constitutional issues once did just that. The parliamentary franchise, Home Rule, votes for women, peers versus the people, disestablishment: these were the issues that stirred mass passions and produced political engagement before 1914. So much has happened since that people have forgotten that these problems were never fully solved: they were only postponed while two world wars were fought and the threats of National Socialism and Marxist socialism were seen off. Now that those massive 20th-century intrusions are over, we find ourselves facing Edwardian issues once again. The constitution is about to become a battleground once more, but in a new context.

In the Thatcher years, the running was made by the intellectual issues of the market. Competition, deregulation, privatisation, monetarism formed an interlocking system of ideas, which created the practical conflicts. These ideas were paralleled by the work of historians such as Alan Macfarlane (on the ancient roots of a property-owning democracy) and Martin Wiener (on the alleged Victorian decline of an industrial, entrepreneurial spirit). These were big questions, but not constitutional ones.

In recent years, practical conflicts have arisen on quite different problems. These dots now join up to outline a picture, of which the key features are monarchy, culture, family, morality and religion: in short, national identity. And although these issues lack a Friedrich Hayek as their philosopher and a Keith Joseph as their political prophet, they find opponents in historians from Raphael Samuel on the left to Jeremy Black on the right.

All this now becomes a matter of constitutional debate because, as John Major clearly explained in his speech to the Centre for Policy Studies, the point about constitutional forms is that they embody values. The love affair of the British with their national institutions is no limp romanticism, but an appreciation of the way that institutions embody and perpetuate, as well as symbolise, a certain way of doing things.

That is why a predilection for hereditary peers and against high inheritance taxes is an affirmation of family integrity. That is why an established Church is widely endorsed, even by other Christian denominations, as an official acknowledgement that law is more than technical convention. That is also why the national history curriculum has become a potent symbol of society's right corporately to affirm a vision of itself.

The opponents of these practices are right to focus on them. But on the constitution, it is the reformers of Charter 88 who are now the radical individualists. Symbolic denotation of the monarchy, disestablishment, reform of the Lords, easier divorce, resistance to a national curriculum, regional devolution within a federal Europe: all these reflect a view of the omnipotent individual, divorced from duties, tirelessly enjoying rights in a state which is to be devolved into a thousand voluntary communities.

There are no votes in defending hereditary peers, or the established Church, or picturesque anachronisms or interesting exceptions to drab uniformity. There are many votes to be won by any party which can articulate a theory of the constitution that shows how our arrangements, present or proposed, are congruent with a vision of national values. But this is not an intellectual problem in which Marx, Hayek, Friedman or Delors will help us.

The constitutional changes demanded by Labour and the Liberal Democrats would be fundamental and irreversible. In this perspective, John Major is correct. His problem will be to persuade enough people of this. His strength is that neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats have behind them a weight of scholarship or doctrine on the issue: no great philosophers, constitutional lawyers, political scientists or historians have written parts for Tony Blair or Paddy Ashdown to act. John Major's weakness is that the same is nearly true of the Conservatives.

Mr Major's Government has an undervalued record of sensible, incremental adjustment — the changed timing of the Budget, the Nolan reforms, select committees — but this does not make it easier to distinguish its policies from those of other parties, which might similarly be presented as moderate and piecemeal. The Government's task is convincingly to illicit the general principles uniting all fundamental reforms. Here Charter 88 plays into Mr Major's hands. Mr Blair's task is to take one issue at a time, and to define his targets as absurd anomalies.

Yet Mr Blair's is the more difficult problem, since we now witness as a result a reforming movement as *pie* since the age of the suffragettes. Collectivist Labour was only a phase, and its impact was strangely limited. The real struggles will be over the programme of individualist liberalism. Perhaps, in the long perspective, historians will see the 20th century going out where it came in.

Professor Clark's pamphlet *Devolution in Historical Perspective* is published by the Conservative Political Centre.

Site report

PREPARATIONS for a Labour victory at the next general election are already well under way at the Department for Education and Employment. A memo has been sent round detailing building work that will have to be done in case a blind Secretary of State takes over. This can only refer to David Blunkett, the blind Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

After the Prime Minister's decision to allow Labour to make early contact with the Civil Service, Blunkett was swift to visit the department and meet the Permanent Secretary. Working conditions were a high priority.

Among the suggested improvements to the already very modern building are braille buttons in the lifts, alterations to door-opening systems and accommodation for Blunkett's guide-dog, Lucy.

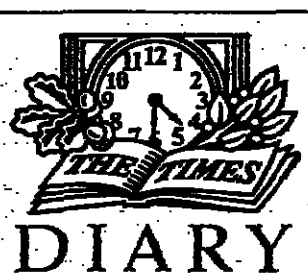
The work has already attracted much varied comment within the building. Blunkett is evidently chuffed. "None of us want to count our chickens, but it is good to know that the department is preparing for a Labour victory."

● Teething troubles continue to plague Martin Guerre, London's

big new musical. After frantic rewriting, plot-juggling and midling reviews, it was time on Monday night for the electrics to go. Just 55 minutes into the show, the sound system flunked, the stage went black, and the audience was asked to leave.

Much disgust

FRUITY SCENES gripped Royal Tunbridge Wells yesterday, as the town's famous "disgusteds" made



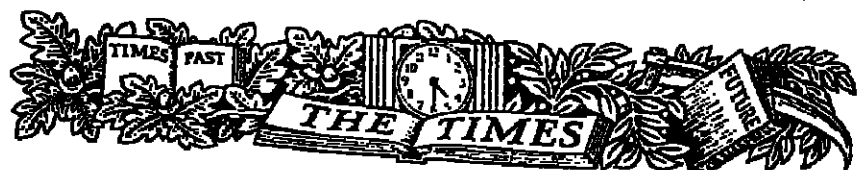
their morning promenade. Outside Waterstone's bookshop, they stumbled upon a man and a young lady apparently overtaken by lust and writhing amorously on the pavement.

At first, passers-by affected a blithe nonchalance, the choked looks of their chihuahuas being the only evidence of surprise. As the couple's intimacies grew ever more intense, however, the police were called forcibly to remove the sort of looks that Marie Antoinette cast on hairy-backed peasants, the couple let rip with a cry futile in T.W.: "It's a free country."

● Gail Lilley, wife of the cherubic Secretary of State for Social Security, is taking her summer holiday seriously. At Jeffrey Archer's bizarre summer party the other night, where she sported a sleeveless dress, a vivid yellow



Diana in hiding



TREASURY 2005

In or out of Emu: how Whitehall sees Britain's future

A central Government role is to prepare for the future. Or, at least, it should be. While ministers have been tumbling from day to day, it is good to read that The Treasury has been looking forward. Today *The Times* publishes extracts from an assessment of the decade ahead by the department that has long seen itself as the heart of government: it is a quintessential piece of mandarinate work, deploying analogies with astronomy and the mediaeval church as well as the 21st-century intricacies of exchange rate policy. It identifies a convincing concept of public administration as well as the historic rival to its approach to Europe — the Foreign and Commonwealth Office across the street.

The formal purpose of the document is disarmingly narrow: what, it asks, is the probable staffing needs of Her Majesty's Treasury in the year 2005? The answer, however, is achieved by panoramic means. In order to reach the final case for keeping 11 staff places that are presently scheduled for eradication, the Treasury team touches upon the economic and political options for virtually all major aspects of public life.

It starts with a cold look at a single currency including eight possible scenarios ranging from earliest possible involvement to maximum feasible avoidance. Encouragingly, it concludes that regardless of any change of government the prospect of this country joining at the outset is under 50 per cent. It notes, however, that regardless of which scenario is proved correct, substantial change in the organisation of economic policy in Britain will occur. More decisions will be made in Europe. Even at home the Treasury will be further from the centre of the Copernican universe. The Bank of England, for example, is expected to have more independence whether or not Britain takes the decision to join the Emu.

After this comes an attempt at estimating future trade flows. Both John Major and Tony Blair devote much of their speeches already to the challenge from Asia. The message for the United Kingdom from the Treasury strongly reinforces this message. If Britain is predominantly a trading partner with stagnant European economies, then its overall standing in the global export league will slide. The EU, expected to have six additional members ten years hence, cannot be relied upon to accept the challenge: Britain will need thinking of its own.

Public spending is the mandarins' mother's milk. Two models are contemplated for a decade hence. The first, though not titled as such by the apologetic politicians of the Treasury, is the Blair option. In this the level

of public spending as a proportion of national output is assumed roughly similar to present levels. Conservative Central Office may or may not believe in New Labour; Whitehall plainly does. To achieve what might seem a rather modest aim, however, substantial struggles with spending departments are envisaged.

For its second path the Treasury postulates a "Contract With Britain", along the lines that were so successful electorally for Newt Gingrich and congressional Republicans in the United States. This would presumably have been introduced by a Conservative administration, led by Michael Portillo or John Redwood, which had been returned to power in 2002.

Today Tory ministers tell rightwing critics that substantial shifts in political priorities are impossible. It is useful thus to note how calmly the career bureaucracy can examine the prospects for privatising contributory benefits, roads, and much of the welfare state. This section also includes the striking statement (even more striking for activists for a future Labour government) that "Treasury officials have a high level of commitment to the efficiency of the market mechanism, to neo-classical welfare economics and to the utilitarian ethics on which they are based."

None of this is to suggest that Whitehall runs Britain or that party democracy is irrelevant. Throughout its text differing possibilities are laid out with absolute fairness. What it does suggest is that all political decisions are shaped by received ideas or, to put it more grandly, a philosophy. Tony Blair has shifted the position of the Labour Party more in response to the politics of the practical than to any perception that the nation became more like Lady Thatcher during the 1980s. The Treasury takes its life from that environment: its philosophy is pragmatism above all things.

The British civil service is proud of its permanent nature, political neutrality and incorruptible reputation. Today's Treasury high-fliers call for a Treasury of the future that still attracts those who are "clever, appropriately skilled, have relevant knowledge, experience and remain well motivated" to meet "inevitable uncertainties" ahead. There are, of course, certainties ahead. "A failure to appreciate that others may not share the Treasury values is a weakness. Where the other party is very sophisticated (eg FCO) there is a lot of fencing and frequently a stand-off." Welcome to 2005.

TIBET'S VOICE

China has an obligation to negotiate with the Dalai Lama

The Dalai Lama speaks with the voice of reason and conciliation on behalf of one of the world's most systematically and unreasonably persecuted peoples. On that ground alone, he deserves an attentive hearing in Britain this week from Malcolm Rifkind and Robin Cook as well as British MPs. China sharpens interest in the case he has to present with each attempt, through the sort of diplomatic intimidation that was directed against Germany last month and Britain this week, to bar Western doors against the Tibetan leader. China's campaign betrays an insecurity that hardly marries with its claims that Tibet has prospered under Chinese occupation.

These claims will under scrutiny. The Han Chinese colonisers of Tibet have indeed prospered from the country's rapid recent modernisation. But high growth has been achieved at unacceptable cost to Tibet's forests and fragile environment; and Tibetans themselves have little part in this prosperity. They are so discriminated against that the Dalai Lama is justified in speaking of "cultural genocide". Repression has intensified since last year, when China abducted Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the young child identified by both the Dalai Lama and the religious search committee in Tibet as the 11th reincarnation of the Panchen Lama. Not only have resulting

protests been violently suppressed, but China is abandoning its limited tolerance of Tibetan religion, sanctioned in 1979 by Deng Xiaoping. New laws even ban the display of the Dalai Lama's portrait — the ultimate provocation in this reverent land.

These are all symptoms, as the Dalai Lama said yesterday; the central issue is "colonial rule... and resistance to that rule" and cannot be solved by "force, intimidation and population transfer". To save Tibetans from "total annihilation", he is willing to negotiate with Peking on an agenda that "does not include independence" for Tibet. Since Deng Xiaoping, China's highest authority, is on record that "anything except independence can be discussed and resolved", Peking has no case for refusing talks. He appealed yesterday for the outside world's "urgent intervention" to bring China to the table. Britain should give him that support; and remind China that it is merely being asked to live up to its undertakings in 1951 to respect Tibet's autonomy and religion — not to mention the status of the Dalai Lama himself. And since Tibetans consider him their political as well as religious leader, it is high time for Britain, whose pretence that ministers meet him only in his capacity as a religious authority dishonours Tibet without placating the Chinese, openly to acknowledge him as such.

OLD STONES

In history, symbols matter more than science

Facts may be sacred but the sacred should not have to depend on facts. It is reassuring that records released yesterday of an X-ray examination in 1973 prove the Stone of Scone in Westminster Abbey to be authentic; but the exercise while well-meant, was unnecessary. The Stone derives its power not from what it is — a rock — but what it is believed to be — a symbol of Scottish pride.

An age over-obsessed with authenticity should accept that there is a space for symbolism. The real value of a wedding ring lies in the love it embodies not the carat mark — a plastic hoop is worth more than a band of gold if given from the heart. Her Majesty chose to return the Stone because her ministers hoped to right an historic wrong. Even if the Stone were bogus basalt, what matters is that the intention of Her Majesty's Government is genuine. As with gift horses, so with stones: it is better to accept a generously-offered fake than to insist on authentication.

Of course, there are occasions when the strictest of scientific tests should be applied to ancient artefacts. The Rosetta Stone would have been simply another curio for the Cairo *szek* if it had not faithfully recorded how

hieroglyphics could be translated into Greek. An eagerness to take a skull at face value embarrassed the evolutionists who placed their faith in Piltdown man. In their zeal to prove the missing link that demoted monkeys descended from their branches to become men the boffins were barking up the wrong tree. Whether in philology or biology, the stringent standards of scientific proof have to be applied when dealing with the past.

But statecraft is an art, not a science. Building a nation is less a matter of social engineering than an exercise in story-telling. Too heavy a reliance on the rational and scientific can make a country crabbed and a nation that enthrones Reason will soon find itself ruled by a tyrant. Britain's greatest constitutional thinker, Walter Bagehot, realised the dangers of judging the symbols of statehood in too narrow a fashion. As with an ancient monarchy, so with slabs of ancient masonry; it is better not to let daylight (or X-ray) in upon magic. No king has to pass scientific tests to establish his suitability to be placed on a throne. The Stone of Destiny does not need such scrutiny to take its rightful place under one's

Concern at restructuring plans for BBC World Service

From Baroness David and others

Sir, You and your correspondents have drawn attention to the threat to the World Service posed by the Director-General of the BBC in his proposed restructuring of the Corporation's radio services (leading article, June 15; letters, June 19 and July 5).

In a short debate in the House of Lords on June 27 some of us tried to elicit from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for National Heritage an assurance that there would be no diminution in the quality of the World Service as a result of Mr Birt's changes — introduced, incidentally, without any consultation with his senior staff.

Since then the issues have been fully aired, culminating in the lobby to the House of Commons on July 9, but the danger has not gone away and pressure must be continued on both the Foreign Office and the BBC not to separate the language services of the World Service from the English service and to leave the newsroom and all the World Service English staff intact. They are specialised and dedicated with their knowledge of the needs of their audiences and the demands of differing cultures.

Indeed it would be a pyrrhic victory if, by saving a few thousand pounds, one of Britain's most prestigious institutions is destroyed.

Yours faithfully,
NORA DAVID,
IAN BANCROFT,
CLEWDYNN OF PENRHOS,
DOUGLAS CROHAM,
JOHN CUCKNEY,
DAVIDA DARCY de KNAYTH,
DONALDSON,
JOHN EATWELL,
DENIS HEALEY,
WAYLAND KENNET,
IVOR RICHARD,
BEE SEROTA,
HUGH THOMAS,
GEORGE THOMSON,
House of Lords,
July 15.

From Sir Anthony Parsons

Sir, I have read a great deal of convincing criticism in your columns and elsewhere of the proposed reorganisation of the BBC World Service. There seems little doubt that the new structure will be less effective than the existing one.

Between 1952 and 1979, I served as a diplomat in seven countries of the Middle East and North Africa. There is no question that, in terms of information, the World Service is Britain's most powerful source of influence. The foreign language broadcasts obviously reach a wider audience in the countries to which they are directed. But rulers, ministers and top people across the board of national life rely on the World Service for accuracy, impartiality and relevance. Hence any move which weakens it will diminish our influence worldwide.

I have the following questions. Since the Foreign and Commonwealth Office pays for the service, was it fully consulted about the proposed changes? If so, did the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary agree to them and, if so, could it be explained publicly why the present system needed to be changed and how the new structure will be at least as good if not better?

If the FCO was not consulted in advance, why not?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY PARSONS,
Highgrove, Ashburton, Devon,
July 13.

From Sir Nicholas Barrington

Sir, I write as one who was responsible at different times for the Foreign Office's relations with the World Service. Resources were always scarce, but with reviews and tough but friendly negotiations we ensured that they were used cost-effectively.

The Foreign Office paid the piper but abstained from trying to influence editorial policy because we recognised, supported by overwhelming evidence from posts abroad, that the

World Service in English and the foreign language services of the BBC were of immense value for Britain's interests and reputation overseas. World Service television is also outstandingly influential where it is received.

I am told that Mr John Birt has rarely visited Bush House and shown little interest in the World Service's special skills and achievements. He is meant to be a clever manager, but to alienate practically the whole of the staff of Bush House, as he appears to have done by his recent proposals for integration with the rest of the BBC, announced at short notice with no consultation, is not good management in my book.

We would be crazy to lose the distinctive ethos of the World Service. I wonder to what extent the Foreign Office themselves were consulted about what it, after all, the disposal of their funds. Given limitations on their resources, they may, mistakenly, have felt inhibited about intervening. But Mr Birt cannot be allowed just to ride this one out.

The new Chairman and the BBC Governors, backed by responsible opinion throughout the country, should ensure that recent decisions are reversed.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BARRINGTON,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
July 12.

From Mrs I. M. E. Ferguson

Sir, A quotation from Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom* (Little, Brown, 1994, p503): "We also had a radio, but one that received only local stations and not what we really wanted: the BBC World Service."

Yours sincerely,
I. M. E. FERGUSON,
18 Homefleet House,
Wellington Crescent,
Ramsgate, Kent,
July 10.

Stone of Scone

From Miss Barbara F. Harvey

Sir, Dr Christopher Wilson believes that the Stone of Scone was given by Edward I as a votive offering to the shrine of St Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey, and Dr Paul Binski's remark that to remove it now would be "like flogging off the relics of a saint" suggests that he agrees (report, July 10). The views of these distinguished medieval historians command respect but may, in this case, give rise to some misgivings.

In the Middle Ages, gifts to a church were customarily in the form of gifts to the saint of the church in question, but this does not mean that every such offering possessed the inviolability of a relic. If, therefore, the Stone of Scone was given to St Edward, it would not necessarily have possessed at the time, and would not possess now, the inviolability of the relics that were normally kept at a shrine.

If it was a votive offering one can only be surprised that this gift did not enter the collective memory of the monks of Westminster. Yet, as far as I am aware, this did not happen.

It is to be hoped that the views of Dr Wilson and Dr Binski will not divert attention from the overwhelmingly strong argument for allowing the Stone to remain in its present place, namely the fact that it has been in the Abbey for 700 years.

The advice given to Her Majesty the Queen that this association be now broken violates something quite as precious to most people as the relics of a saint: it violates our common past.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BARBARA F. HARVEY,
66 Cranham Street, Oxford,
July 12.

From Miss M. Lemon-Peacock

Sir, May I say how wholeheartedly I agree with the views expressed by the two distinguished medieval historians who wish to see the Stone of Scone remain at Westminster Abbey. The proposed return of the Stone to Scotland is, in my view, a vain and hollow gesture.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET LEMON-PEACOCK,
23a Woodlands Park Road,
Greenwich, SE10,
July 10.

From Mr Geoffrey Hinton

Sir, Dr Christopher Wilson, of University College London, opposes the removal of the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey, stating that nowhere else in Europe is there such a combination of relic and tomb and shrine, and that "All the royal tombs in France were destroyed during or soon after the revolution".

This is simply not true. St Denis Abbey in Paris contains a truly magnificent series of tombs of the French monarchs and other royal nobles, from the 13th-century tomb of the reburied Dagobert I (who died in AD 639) onwards, including the superb Renaissance tomb of François I.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HINTON
(Art historian),
1 Northmoor Place, Oxford,
July 10.

Letters for publication may
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Animal welfare

From the Chief Charity Commissioner

Sir, In view of recent correspondence on the membership and activities of the RSPCA (letters, July 1, 8, 11) it may be helpful to restate the position concerning the Charity Commission's advice to that charity.

The commission has not said that the RSPCA may not campaign on animal welfare issues (Dr Richard Ryder's letter, July 8). We have, on the contrary, confirmed that, provided it keeps within our guidelines on political activities and campaigning, it may campaign on these issues. What we have sought to clarify with the RSPCA are the limitations which are imposed on charities which operate in this field and which flow from charitable status, namely that they may not campaign against practices which are to the benefit of human beings even though involving suffering for animals. The RSPCA has confirmed that it accepts that the law lays down this limitation.

On the particular issue of hunting it is open to the RSPCA to argue that

hunting involves unnecessary suffering on the basis that, where it is necessary to control numbers, other more humane methods exist. This must however be based on reasoned argument and evidence, not on the personal viewpoint or emotions of members.

On the membership of the RSPCA, we have considered the question of whether certain restrictions which it imposed were consistent with its own rules. We formed the view that the charity could not continue to impose such constraints under the existing membership provisions.

The RSPCA has now proposed an amendment to the membership provisions arising out of a resolution passed at its recent AGM (report, July 1). We have had a preliminary meeting with representatives of the charity on that issue. Further discussion will be necessary before we can reach a final decision.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. FRIES,
Chief Charity Commissioner,
Charity Commission,
St Alban's House,
57/60 Haymarket, SW1,
July 15.

MPs' pay increase

From Mr John Timms

Sir, Surely, the point that should be raised in respect of MPs awarding themselves a 26 per cent salary increase (letters, July 10, 12, 16) is not whether they deserve their new salaries — personally, I feel they have a good case — but that, by privilege and personal authority, they have indulged themselves whilst, at the same time, they continue to reject the possibly more legitimate claims of pensioners and low-paid public-sector workers.

Yours,
JOHN TIMMS,
39 East Trinity Road, Edinburgh 5.

From Mr Paul Leigh-Morgan

Sir, I understand a prominent concern addressed by the increase in

MPs' salaries is the need to attract a higher calibre of applicant in the future. Can we take it therefore that the present incumbents will not be offering themselves for re-election?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL LEIGH-MORGAN,
2 Chequers Court,
Swavesey, Cambridge,
July 11.

From Mr Charles Davis

Sir, Was it truly pure coincidence that George Orwell should feature in your columns ("Orwell" was recruited to fight Soviet propaganda", report, July 11) the very morning after the pigs voted for seconds?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES DAVIS,
89 Conwy Road,
Colwyn Bay, Clwyd,
July 11.

Airline competition

From Mr Mark H. Levy

Sir, Your remarks on airline competition (leading article, July 9; also letters, July 10, 11) are well aimed. I have been travelling by air between Manchester and Belfast long enough to have seen monopoly give way to competition and, regrettably, back again.

It was delightful to see how the introduction of another service to Belfast City (Harbour) enabled British Airways to find a way of providing its customers with a newspaper, a cold breakfast, then a hot breakfast and eventually a ticket, price to match those on offer elsewhere.

BA has now seen off its rivals on this route. The result? A 12 per cent increase in the cost of my journey between February and June 1996.

Yours faithfully,
MARK H. LEVY
(Managing Director),
Gaumont Watch Co. Ltd,
Gaumont House,
Stanley Grove,
Northwich, Cheshire,
July 10.

Question of degree

From Dr Malcolm Taylor

Sir, In my opinion, the biggest single factor contributing to grade inflation in degree classification (leading article, July 1; letters, July 12) has been the gradual drift away from formal examinations towards continuous assessment and coursework.

In some subjects and institutions this drift has been so total that it is now possible to gain an honours degree from a British university without ever having to sit a single examination. Virtually all students perform better at this method of academic evaluation.

The true guarantee of standards, in my view, would be to separate the teaching and examining functions within a university. All subjects would be taught to the equivalent of a national curriculum and all testing procedures would be set and examined by an external body.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM TAYLOR,
12 Salisbury Way,
Astley, Manchester 29,
July 2.

Common law and Royal Highnesses

From Mr Michael Thornton

Sir, It is wrong in my view to suggest, as have some commentators, that the Princess of Wales is to be "stripped" of the title, Her Royal Highness.

This is a fundamental misconception of the legal position. On ceasing to be the wife of a Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales automatically loses this rank, as in the recent case of the Duchess of York.

Much of the present confusion arises from an unsafe precedent, in 1937, when King George VI, in issuing letters patent to create the Dukedom of Windsor for his brother, the former King Edward VIII, was claimed by his advisers to be "recreating" the Duke of Windsor.

This was wholly without justification, since the Duke held that rank already by birth as the son, grandson and great-grandson of British sovereigns. The device was employed in order to prevent the Duchess of Windsor from assuming the style of Royal Highness, which was hers by common law — an action subsequently regarded by most historians as illegal under the constitution. The letters patent of 1937 are, in fact, now known by lawyers as "the Depriving Act".

In spite of these circumstances it is still a clear option for the Queen to create the Princess of Wales a Royal Highness in her own right, with a rank and precedence that does not depend upon that of her former husband. Given the outstanding quality of the public work performed by the Princess, the undoubted affection in which she is held and the fact that she is the mother of a future British king, it is to be regretted that the Queen has not been advised to do this.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL THORNTON,
c/o Dinah Wiener Ltd,
27 Arlington Road, NW1,
July 16.

From Dr A. W. McKenzie

Sir, In their adherence to titles which indicate degrees of Highness and Graciousness, the Royal Family relies on the bemused tolerance of the people.

However, that passivity undergoes strain with your July 13 headline "Princess will lose HRH style...". and many must feel that it represents an unkind demolition of the mother of a future king of the United Kingdom. Strangely, HRH The Prince of Wales is required to make no such atonement through the lessening of his titles of nobility, in spite of his admission of misdeeds.

Perhaps it is all a matter of expediency. After August 28, when the divorce becomes final, the prefix of HRH The Princess of Wales will move into the Situations Vacant category.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. MCKENZIE,
50 Bracondale, Norwich, Norfolk,
July 13.

Lincoln impasse

From Miss Selina McGeeoch

Sir, In the Judgment of Solomon (1 Kings iii) it was the real mother who gave up her legitimate claim to the baby and the false claimant who wished rather to see it sacrificed than appear to be the impostor.

Since the self-sacrifice of the true mother has lived in history for nearly three thousand years, giving her undying honour, I am surprised that no one has yet reported seeing two cackled figures racing to the postbox, clutching letters of resignation tightly to their bosom, through the cathedral close in Lincoln (letters, July 10, 16).

Yours faithfully,
SELINA MCGEECH,
Kirk Deighton House,
Main Street, Kirk Deighton,
Wetherby, North Yorkshire,
July 10.

Dyslexic drivers

From Mr Michael Harman

Sir, I sympathise with dyslexics who may find the new written part of the driving test difficult (article, Car 96, July 6). The condition we are told: goes far beyond poor reading and writing skills. It affects eye, hand and foot co-ordination and often features short-term memory deficits. People with dyslexia also find it hard to cope with too many instructions at once and often cannot distinguish between left and right.

Should we really be introducing special arrangements to make it easier for people with this condition — a registrable disability — to be given the right to drive freely?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HARMAN,
Holmwood, 37 Upper Park Road,
Camberley, Surrey,
July 8.

Winning formula

From Mrs Linda M. Swindlehurst

Sir, I would like to offer Mr Schumacher (report, Sport, July 15) the loan of my Metro for his next grand-prix outing. It may not be as fast as his Ferrari but at least it gets my son and me to Tesco and back without breaking down.

I remain, etc,
L. SWINDLEHURST,
14 Cromer Road,
St Anne's on Sea, Lancashire,
July 15.

OBITUARIES

PANDRO BERMAN

Pandoro Berman, Hollywood producer, died on July 13 aged 91. He was born on March 28, 1905.

PANDRO BERMAN outlived almost all his contemporaries from the golden age of Hollywood. While he never carried the financial weight of one of the big studio moguls, he had infinitely more creative influence over the final product than those executive producers for whom he worked. He kept the standard of that product high, combining his job as a film's line producer (the man who supervises every detail of production), with that of unofficial midwife to the fledgling careers of his actors. It was Berman who engineered the inspired dance partnership between Fred Astaire and a young ex-vaudeville actress named Ginger Rogers. With them, he produced some of the most delightful musical comedies of the 1930s.

Pandoro Samuel Berman was born in Pittsburgh and educated locally. He never went to college, arriving in Hollywood in the 1920s and serving his apprenticeship during the last days of silent films. His father was a minor executive at Universal Pictures, and he secured his son a job at a small studio called the Film Booking Office. Fortunately this later merged with RKO, allowing Berman to work his way up at RKO under David O. Selznick, whose assistant he had become by the end of the decade.

He was seen as something of a boy wonder at the studio — assistant director, editor and producer on a score of films by 1934, when he bought the first starring vehicle for Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. These two had known each other since the days when both were appearing on the New York stage. They had already appeared in supporting roles together, dancing the Caricia, in *Flying Down to Rio* the previous year. The RKO top brass saw there was money to be made in pairing them together in starring roles. Berman, the new head of production at the studio, was asked to find the right vehicle.

He went to New York, saw Astaire dancing in *The Gay Divorcee* and bought the property for the screen for Astaire and Rogers. Astaire was not overpleased by the idea of Rogers. He had been teamed with his sister Adele for such a long time as a young man, that he feared being identified yet again with one woman. Rogers, he worried, was more keen on proving herself as a serious actress, and was not a professional tap dancer.

Despite his misgivings, *The Gay Divorcee* was, as the studio had predicted, a box office triumph. It was followed by more Rogers and Astaire partnerships, at the rate of one a year, all produced by Berman: *Top Hat*, *Follow the Fleet*, *Swing Time*, *Shall*



Pandoro Berman with Ginger Rogers on the set of *Fifth Avenue Girl*, 1939

We Dance?, *Carefree* and *The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle*. The finished product of these masterly collaborations with composers like Cole Porter, the Gershwins, Irving Berlin and Jerome Kern, made magical viewing. There were light comedy plots, wonderful tunes and great dances for audiences to enjoy. Only Berman, behind the scenes, knew the effort of co-ordinating these vast projects and indeed getting them into production at all. Whatever the public thought, Astaire remained unconvinced about the benefits of working with Rogers. Every time Berman found a new vehicle, he had to cajole and bully Astaire into accepting it.

Rogers and Astaire were not the only Berman discoveries. He had cast Betty Davis in *Of Human Bondage* in 1934, the film which really kick-started her career. By the late 1930s Berman was also working with the Marx Brothers on *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. By now he was considered the most creative producer on the RKO lot. But it was still a small studio compared to Universal and MGM. When his new president, George Shaffer, arrived in 1939, he demanded that the output be

raised to 55 films a year (15 more than the average at the time). Berman thought that the studio was over-extending itself, resigned and accepted a proposal from Louis B. Mayer at MGM.

Berman was at MGM from 1940 to 1967 and produced some of its finest films during that time. In 1944 he took a chance in casting the young Elizabeth Taylor in *National Velvet* (she was determined to get the part, which called for a slightly older girl, and grew three inches in two months, almost, it seemed, by an act of will). Berman was one of those who had originally thought Taylor wrong for the role. But, once he had accepted the choice, he set about developing her career with the same flair he had shown with Rogers and Astaire. He provided her with *Father of the Bride* (1950), and supported her, through a worn-out, anxious stage in her life, during the filming of *Ivanhoe* in England in 1952. Taylor was less pleased with Berman ten years later, when he held her to her contract, and made her film *Butterfield 8* (which she loathed), but which won her the Oscar for Best Actress before releasing her for much more lucrative work on *Cleopatra*.

Berman's output at MGM slowed down during the 1950s, although it included some big projects like *The Prisoner of Zenda*. With executive reshuffles at the studio in 1956, Berman became more of an independent producer, distributing his films through MGM.

The arrangement suited him well. During the 1960s, when the studio was not enjoying good fortune, he produced some of their biggest commercial hits: *The Prize* with Paul Newman, and *A Patch of Blue* with Sidney Poitier. He left MGM in 1967, spent two years with 20th Century Fox, and then retired gracefully for good.

In his retirement in Beverly Hills, Berman was rewarded not only by witnessing the enduring popularity of his films, but by various awards. At the Oscars in 1977, he was awarded the highest honour possible for a producer, the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award.

He was married twice. His first marriage, to Viola Newman in 1927, ended in divorce. He married his second wife, Kathryn Hereford, in 1960. She died in 1993. He leaves a son and two daughters from his first marriage.

EDILIO RUSCONI

Edilio Rusconi, Italian magazine editor and publisher, died in Milan on July 10 aged 79. He was born on November 11, 1916.

EDILIO RUSCONI dominated the postwar Italian popular magazine market, first as an editor and later as publisher of a series of photographic weeklies. They played on nostalgia for the monarchy, traditional Roman Catholic values and anti-communism.

Rusconi was 30 when the publisher Angelo Rizzoli agreed to a proposal to revive the old weekly title *Oggi* (Today) which had been suspended by the Fascist authorities. As its Editor from 1945, Rusconi devised a sentimental formula that appealed to an Italy that was weary of war and eager to return to normal life. The first issue on July 21, 1945, had 16 pages and cost 15 lire.

Rusconi surrounded himself with a team of enthusiastic young journalists and played on royalist sentiment when a year later Italy voted by a narrow majority to abolish the monarchy and King Umberto and his family went into exile in Portugal. By 1950 its circulation had soared to half a million and by 1955 to 760,000 copies.

Oggi supported all the European royal families and argued that Italy's main problem was the threat from international communism. Prominent Christian Democrat politicians signed its editorials. Some 70 per cent of its readers were women and often Rusconi would reject articles by reporters, saying: "Si piange poco" (too few tears). Later Rusconi would boast: "I made the Italians dream and the little seamstresses cry."

He had an affectionate relationship with Pope Pius XII. One of his biggest scoops was to reveal that, when the Pontiff was ill, Jesus Christ had appeared at his bedside. It was a story, however, that the Vatican authorities were not prepared to confirm.

Rizzoli encouraged the young Editor by promising him half a lira for every copy that he sold in excess of the magazine's rival, *Europeo*. By the early 1950s *Oggi* had reached its target and was selling more than its rival.



Rusconi was given a free hand to undertake other business enterprises while at the helm. But in 1956 he parted company with Rizzoli, set up his own magazine, *Gente* (People), which was more or less identical to *Oggi* in format but which was soon winning the circulation battle.

Gente was started on a shoestring capital of only 50 million lire. But it soon attracted such well known writers as Luigi Barzini. Italy's most famous foreign correspondent, who agreed to sell Rusconi his memoirs. Rusconi annoyed Barzini, however, by rewriting the text and the deal was scrapped.

Rusconi went on to build up a constellation of about 20 weekly magazines, including *Gliu* (Joy) and *Eva*, both publications aimed at women, as well as travel and motoring titles.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Rusconi experimented, usually unsuccessfully, with investments in other media fields. In 1973 he bought a 50 per cent share in the Rome newspaper *Il Messaggero* but

was rebuffed by the journalists who rejected his choice for Editor. A political weekly *Il Settimanale* did not work either. He dabbled in cinema, backing an ailing Luchino Visconti in his direction of the film *Gruppo di Famiglia in un interno*.

As an old man Rusconi also made an unsatisfactory venture into television as the owner of the private channel *Italia 1*. This he eventually ceded to the politician and tycoon Silvio Berlusconi.

Although he was known as the king of Italian popular journalism in a country without tabloid newspapers, Rusconi was a cultured man. He wrote several books, including *Common Solitude*, a collection of portraits of contemporary Italian writers, two novels *Casamento 84* and *Il cuore è una città* (The Heart is a City), and a collection of short stories *Giorni sul fiume* (Days on the River).

In 1985 he handed over chairmanship of his group to Alberto, his son by his wife Luciana, both of whom survive him.

PROFESSOR HUGH DAVSON

Professor Hugh Davson, physiologist and medical scientist, died on July 2 aged 86. He was born on November 25 1909.

WIDELY known for the Davson-Danielli model of the cell membrane, Hugh Davson and his colleague Jim Danielli had first propounded the idea in the late 1930s; it appears today, scarcely modified, in the most elementary texts of physiology.

Davson's life's work made many fundamental contributions to physiology, ophthalmology, the study of the cerebrospinal fluid and the

blood-brain barrier. It led to an understanding of how molecules enter and leave cells, and of how the fluid environment of the brain and eye are controlled. This knowledge is central to the design of new drugs which have to cross cell membranes in order to be effective.

At University College School, Hampstead, Hugh Davson did not shine, so his father, a GP, arranged for him to work for one of his patients at the Baltic Exchange. Finding the work tedious, he persuaded his father to pay the fees for University College London (for which he had

already matriculated, unknown to his parents) to study chemistry.

There he met Danielli and gained a first class degree in 1931. Next, the vitamin biochemist Jack (later Sir Jack) Drummond invited him to study permeability. Using red blood cells, Davson, often in collaboration with Danielli, studied the movement of the charged ions sodium and potassium across the cell membrane. This led to the theory of the cell membrane, the Davson-Danielli model, and the publication of *Permeability of Natural Membranes* in 1942.

Davson then applied for a Medical Research Council-funded post to work with the ophthalmologist Stewart (later Sir Stewart) Duke-Elder on the causative factors in glaucoma — a common cause of blindness. During this time Davson proved that swelling of the vitreous body was not the cause of the intra-ocular pressure rise that results in glaucoma, the theory that had been espoused by Duke-Elder. The economic situation of the 1930s, together with the rise of the Nazis in Germany, led Davson to join the Communist Party. He was interviewed after the war by the

security service and asked about his student friends in MIS's hunt for the Third Man. It was not until the 1950s that he realised that communism was not the way forward and that Stalinism was as bad as Fascism.

In 1936 Davson was offered a Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship, followed by a Beit Fellowship, which enabled him to develop his work on cell membranes in the United States. From 1939 he had a period at Dalhousie University. But after the outbreak of war he returned to England to offer his services to the Government. He worked first at Porton Down, studying the effect of mustard gas on the eye. Later he applied his knowledge of optics to the evaluation of infra-red night sights which had been captured from German units. These were found to be streets ahead of anything that the Allies possessed. In order to evaluate the equipment Davson learnt to drive a Sherman tank and to guide it around Surrey lanes in the dark with the aid of the infra-red sights.

After the war Davson continued to work on the problems of glaucoma, and he established a Medical Research Council research group at the Institute of Ophthalmology in 1946, this again in collaboration with Duke-Elder. During this time he wrote *The Physiology of the Eye*, a work which went through five editions and formed the standard

text for ophthalmologists. But he had a number of differences with Duke-Elder and asked to be moved from the control of the Institute to that of the Medical Research Council. This provoked a crisis which split the ophthalmology unit, a number of whose members threatened to leave unless they could work with Davson. Eventually he was able to form a small group of his own at the Institute.

These difficulties led Davson to return to University College in 1951 to study the blood-brain barrier and the cerebrospinal fluid. During this time he advanced the understanding of the blood-brain barrier, the very existence of which at the time was denied by many. Nevertheless, time was to show that it was the presence of this barrier which preserved a constancy of the fluid environment for the brain, without which it could not function.

In 1951 Davson published *Textbook of General Physiology*, which ran to four editions, and in 1956 *Physiology of the Ocular and Cerebrospinal Fluids*, which also ran to four editions. He also edited three editions of *Starling's Physiology* and started a short *Introduction to Physiology*, co-authored with Malcolm Segal. Davson retired from University College in 1975 and was awarded a Fogarty Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. The following year he returned as Senior Research



Fellow at King's College, London, to work with Michael Bradbury and David Begley. Later, in 1984 he moved to the Sherrington School of Physiology, United Medical and Dental Schools, St Thomas' Hospital, London, as Emeritus Professor to work with Malcolm Segal.

Davson was formally honoured more abroad than in the UK, principally in the US, Japan and South America. He could not abide what he considered to be scientific pomposity and bluster, and would publicly explode the ideas of some of his senior colleagues. But he was dedicated to the development of younger scientists in whom he saw promise.

In the 1980s he took an interest in the development of neuroscience in Belgrade and

as a consequence was made a Fellow of the Serbian Academy of Science, only the third Englishman after Gladstone and Henry Moore to have done so. He took the trouble to make a speech to the Academy in Serbo-Croat, much to the amazement and delight of the audience.

The name Davson is known to every student of physiology today. He published more than 200 scientific papers and wrote 20 books. His work was contributed over so long a period that many assumed he was a historical rather than a living figure. Some years back, one of his granddaughters in a physiology lecture, being instructed on the Davson-Danielli model, was told about this long-deceased scientist. "No he's not," she interjected, "he's my grandfather and is very much alive". The lecturer stopped in his tracks.

Davson had many interests outside science. He was widely read and could quote tracts of Shakespeare, Gibbon and Johnson. He appreciated fine wine and good beer and kept gardens in both Wimbledon and Devon. It was whilst tending his garden in Georgeham that he died, having enjoyed another anniversary, a long walk along the north Devon coast, the day before.

His wife Marjorie, a distinguished portrait painter, predeceased him by two years. He is survived by a daughter Caroline.

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Steaming hot: York's railway museum restaurant offers local specialities such as Yorkshire curd tarts

Widget Finn finds out how rain affects sandwiches at Britain's attractions

On the tourist menu

When the Victoria & Albert Museum launched a marketing campaign with the slogan "Ace café - quite a nice museum attached", the diachrons were appalled. The marketing campaign was designed to shock, says Robin Cole-Hamilton, head of public affairs. "It showed that the V&A recognises that people don't just come for great works of art; they also expect a good cup of coffee. As we're a museum, not a restaurant, we brought in the experts to manage our catering."

Traditionalists may be mollified to know that the "café" now contributes £250,000 to the V&A's annual income. UK tourist attractions will welcome 25 million overseas visitors and 125 million domestic tourists this year, at least half of them wanting refreshments.

The food at tourist sites must appeal to a range of tastes, from schoolchildren to sophisticated eaters, says Claire Ford, who designs

the menus for ten heritage sites managed by Milburns Restaurants. The Imperial War Museum has a strong British following, which is reflected in traditional food such as Lancashire hotpot and a high consumption of tea, while the British Museum attracts tourists from all over the world who want widely recognisable dishes like poached salmon and chicken.

Milburns includes local specialities in its heritage restaurants - Bath buns at the City's Pump Rooms, Yorkshire curd tarts at the British Railway Museum - and has themed menus for special exhibitions - diners at the Royal Academy's Venetian Exhibition could enjoy Venetian culinary specialities such as *forst verde*.

is an exception. Its restaurant on Platform 3 has been serving a proper meat and two veg menu for most of the museum's 21 years.

Contract caterers work closely with their clients at tourist attractions to identify the visitor profile, which is essential for menu planning. The positioning of eating areas, the flow of visitors, even the opening times and weather are vital.

"We always undertake to increase the gross catering revenue, which means that our client, who gets a percentage of the takings, also benefits," says Evelyn Thurlby, development director of Gardner Merchant Leisure Services, whose contracts include the Royal Armouries, Hampton Court Palace and the Motor Museum at Beaulieu in Hampshire.

The caterer's perfect visitor site has a food outlet near the entrance to make it accessible to people from outside. Further catering is placed at critical points such as the start of

tours, so that visitors can sit and plan their next move, with a larger eating point near the exit. In practice, the constraints of old buildings like Hampton Court mean that caterers have to compromise, although their contract often includes an opportunity to refurbish or tailor existing facilities.

Flexibility is the keynote of catering at tourist sites where numbers can vary daily according to events and weather. Gardner Merchant gets advance details of large booked parties so that small kiosks selling ice-cream and drinks can be opened or closed according to demand. And Pret A Manger, sandwich chain that does all the catering for the Tower of London's tourists, contacts the Weather Centre several times a day. "Rain can make a big impact on the business, affecting takings by 50 per cent," claims Richard Smith, operations manager. "The National Gallery is very busy when it rains, while the Tower goes quiet."

Companies that decide to outsource their information technology operations should sign short-term, tailor-made contracts, a survey of 40 companies shows. Better still, companies should give their existing in-house teams a chance to do the job efficiently.

The three-year survey, carried out by Templeton College at Oxford University, covered large and small organisations in sectors including airlines, banking, chemicals, electronics, food, oil, retailing and government.

The report welcomes the competition that outsourcing has fostered but it argues that companies can do more to find the solution that suits them best.

The authors, Mary Lacey, an assistant professor at the University of Missouri, and Leslie Wilcocks, lecturer in management studies at Oxford, found that IT contracts ran for up to ten years, with some companies outsourcing the whole IT function and

An inside job

Outsourcing is not always the best information technology strategy

others only parts. They say that the trigger for the change in the way in which IT operations were carried out came in 1989, when Eastman Kodak, the photographic giant, turned over most of its IT operations to three outsourcing partners. Senior executives of other major US companies followed, signing long-term contracts worth millions of dollars with IT outsourcing partners.

Similar outsourcing deals were signed in the UK by companies including BP Exploration, British Aerospace and BHS, and by government departments such as the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security. By 1994, just over half of UK

organisations were outsourcing some aspect of their information technology needs. Because IT spans such a variety of activities, outsourcing should be done selectively. The authors say: "No one vendor or internal IT department possesses the experience and economies of scale to perform all IT activities most effectively."

The authors emphasise that contracts tailored to the organisation are better than trying to set up strategic partnerships with IT suppliers.

They argue that short-term contracts are preferable to long-term ones for several reasons. Technology and business conditions cannot be predicted for more than three

years, so contracts become increasingly outdated. Short-term contracts motivate vendors, because they realise that the customer may switch suppliers when the contract expires, while companies can recover and learn quickly from mistakes.

Unexpected costs arising from outsourcing IT "consistently appeared" in the deals the authors studied. Many sprang from oversights or weaknesses in evaluating the project before signing the contract. "In many cases organisations find themselves paying for the vendor's learning curve, are locked into old technologies with high switching costs, or they incur large discretionary spending outside the contract."

The report says that internal IT departments should make more effort to bid for contracts. Many outside bids are based on efficient management practices that in-house teams can achieve.

To do so, they may have to break down the prejudices of senior executives who resist improvements because of internal politics then blame the IT managers for not making progress. Cost-saving measures such as consolidating data centres or standardising software packages are often rejected by superiors.

Successful decisions require senior management and the in-house IT experts to get together to make decisions.

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All change on the Tyne

A plum PFI contract involves rehousing 13,000 civil servants



Brian Taylor: big exercise

Building & Property, the facilities management company, has won a 25-year preferred supplier contract in the first big property project of the Government's private finance initiative (PFI). In a joint venture with Amec, the construction group, it will supervise the £150 million redevelopment of the Department of Social Security's headquarters in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The DSS occupies 11 sites in and around the city. The PFI will concentrate the department's offices on two main sites: Longbenton to the north, where Amec will be constructing 70,000 sq m of accommodation, and Washington to the south, where a 23,000 sq m office building is planned. The project involves extensive demolition and redevelopment.

The bid was won in the face of stiff competition from Taylor Woodrow and W.S. Atkins. Brian Taylor, a Building & Property director, says: "We will not only provide fully-managed office space for the DSS, but we could eventually be providing a range of additional services, such as security, cleaning and catering."

In addition to the £150 million capital cost of construction, there is an annual sum for FM, which is likely to be about £4 million a year. The DSS will lease its new office buildings from Newcastle Estate Partnership, a company formed by Amec and Building

sands of pounds. On the DSS scheme, negotiations lasted 18 months and it clearly helped that Building & Property, owned by its joint venture partner Amec and the civil engineering consultancy Pell Frischmann, was able to share bidding costs.

The DSS project is partly self-financing, which will minimise costs to the Government and provide a *quid pro quo* to the developer shouldering the risk. A vital factor in the deal was the DSS's releasing part of its sprawling Longbenton site to Amec Developments, which plans to build a 100-bed hotel and leisure facilities.

On the FM front, Building & Property's immediate problem will be managing the moves as 13,000 DSS staff are decanted from existing offices. Staff will be moved into temporary accommodation until the new offices are ready for occupation. Mr Taylor says: "Our first FM role will be management and communication, en-

suring the changeovers go smoothly, that the information technology stays up and running and that we meet health and safety requirements. It's a very, very big exercise."

He is looking forward to managing the new buildings. Being part of a consortium has given the FM company the chance to influence design at an early stage, and maintenance, security and operation will all be easier as a result. The design helps to ensure that whole-life costs for heating and ventilating plant are minimised, and Building & Property will let FM sub-contractors on the basis of competitive tender. Mr Taylor says: "There is no preference for in-house companies."

Mr Taylor believes PFI will enable the department dramatically to reduce its FM costs. He says: "There are two ways they save money. Under the PFI, we had to price competitively and now that we are at the preferred-bidder stage the client will benchmark us against the cost of the traditional Government procurement process."

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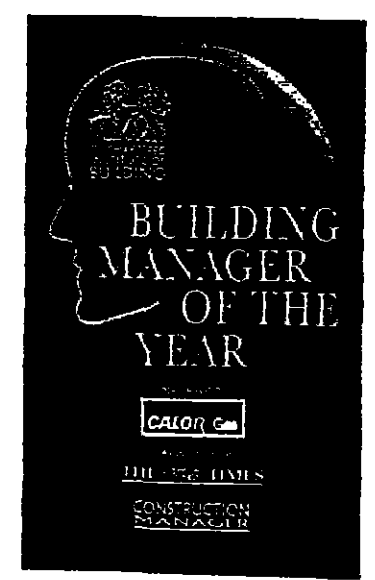
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FM FILE

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THE J&D Organisation, a family-owned firm which supplies commercial support services to British Gas, BP Oil and London Underground, among others, is piloting a new service called Domestic Doctors. It promises fair, benchmarked charges to the public in their homes and reliable service by a fleet of satellite-controlled vans.

"Most domestic work is reactive," says Graham Westley of J&D. "The drains flood, the loo is blocked. That doesn't need to happen. A proactive visit will identify the leaves in the gutters, and a bit of wire mesh will save a lot of trouble. Cleaning carbon from the boiler heads will save you problems later. Prevention is better than cure; that's the motto of the FM industry, and we are going to apply it to the domestic market."

□ **SPACE** planning, benchmarking, catering, health and safety and performance-based contracting are among the topics chosen for Quadrant's conference programme at the FM Expo North 96 exhibition at C-Mex, Manchester, on October 22 and 23.

More than 100 exhibitors have signed up for the show. Details: 0181-742 2828.

□ **THE** in-house facilities team bidding to provide support services to the army in the Salisbury Plain area has formed a partnership with Procord, the British arm of Johnson Controls FM.

Procord has also set up a property management service, backed by a software package and a series of business briefings aimed at managers: details 01242 577277.

Domesday duty

Peter Brown reports on the removal of the national archive to Kew

To walk into the Public Record Office at Kew is to step not only into the past but onto it. The entrance atrium is paved with slate taken from the PRO's headquarters at Chancery Lane, which dates from the 1850s. In those days slate shelves were the latest thing for document storage.

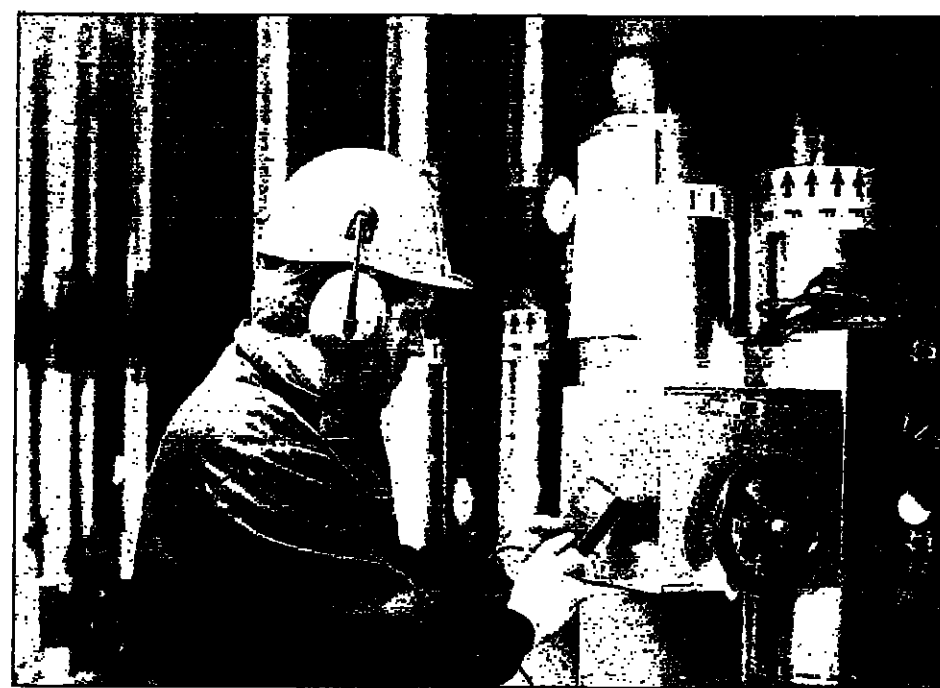
By Christmas, Chancery Lane, which lies off Fleet Street, will be closed: all its contents will have been moved to Kew (to the annoyance of some scholars). The Domesday Book has yet to make the journey but the iron chest in which it once was kept already graces a Kew corridor. Its three separate keyholders are a reminder that security problems are nothing new.

Security is handled in-house at Kew, but keeping watch on the maintenance of mechanical and electrical works, window cleaning, landscaping, pest control and energy management are Alan Garner and John Short of Mowlem FM, which holds a partnership contract with the PRO.

"When it lost the services of the Property Holdings, the government agency, in April, the PRO was effectively jumping out of an aeroplane without a parachute," says Mr Short. Mowlem's change manager at Kew, "We are the parachute. We have the experience to take an overview."

Duncan Simpson, the PRO's director of corporate services, puts it slightly differently: "We looked for the parachute before we jumped," he says. "We had the choice of continuing with Property Holdings' successor, or going into the marketplace. Broadly speaking, all seems to be going well with the Mowlem contract."

Looking after the national archive is a heavy responsibility. Created for the convenience of Victorian lawyers, the PRO now attracts scholars from all over the world to see documents such as Shakespeare's will, Bligh's account of the mutiny on the *Bounty*, Guy Fawkes's confessions and Captain Cook's charts.



An engineer checks equipment at the Public Record Office in Kew, where the Domesday Book (left) will soon be stored



ling system sniffs for smoke. "The chillers and the heating plant are all sized for back-up," says Mr Short. "There is a lot of redundant equipment built into the system. Mould is the enemy, and smoke is the great danger."

There are two, connected buildings at Kew. The first is a 1970s building for which Mowlem has awarded the maintenance contract to AHS Emstar. There were some control system problems, but Steve Parkinson, Emstar's director of building services management, is pleased with progress.

Dust, he says, is a problem. "Maintaining the right environment is crucial, but I think we've cracked it. Now we're working towards the Government's energy efficiency targets."

The second building, a £33 million extension, opened last September. Kyle Stewart, the main contractor, subcontracted the work to How Engineering, whose installation contract has a year and a half to run.

This building is designed to meet the annual 1.5km extension of the archive until 2010. Flexible joints are built into its steelwork to allow for a 50mm movement, as the documents

are moved in and the building settles. Overhead, huge solar shading blinds whirr impressively to and fro, reacting to light and heat sensors.

Water is a potential danger: the Thames is tidal at Kew. No documents are stored in the basement or ground floor, and the roof is double-shelled. Should a storm coincide with high tide, a balancing pond outside the building fills up.

Mowlem's partnership with the PRO is going "as well as possible", Mr Garner says. "It's like a marriage: communication is the key. And there has to be goodwill." Twice-weekly meetings are held with the PRO's estates team, and Mowlem chairs a monthly meeting to review progress.

All complaints are funnelled through Mowlem, which already claims a faster response time to requests via the helpdesk. For the future, Mowlem is monitoring energy consumption and is looking at a combined heat and power unit and perhaps a desiccant dehumidifying process.

Mowlem will take a percentage of energy savings made over the contract period — three years, with an option on a further two — so automatic heat and light controls are likely innovations.

Offices learn to cut costs

Multiskilling has paid useful dividends

MANAGEMENT costs are falling, according to the quarterly *The Times/Procord* index of office costs. While the trend will continue, Andrew Gardiner, performance group manager at Procord, believes that many companies have learnt that cutting down too far on facilities management numbers can be a false economy, *Radney Hobson writes.*

Property management costs per employee fell from £192 to £173 in the second quarter compared with the first quarter, the index shows. Mr Gardiner cites changes in the way contracts are structured, general market pressure and improved management practices.

He says: "Organisations have been looking at the management function and how they can manage facilities more efficiently. We are now seeing costs coming down as firms develop a multiskilling approach."

Traditionally, four or five heads of department have reported on facilities management through different channels to the main board. Reports may come through the finance director, administration or personnel.

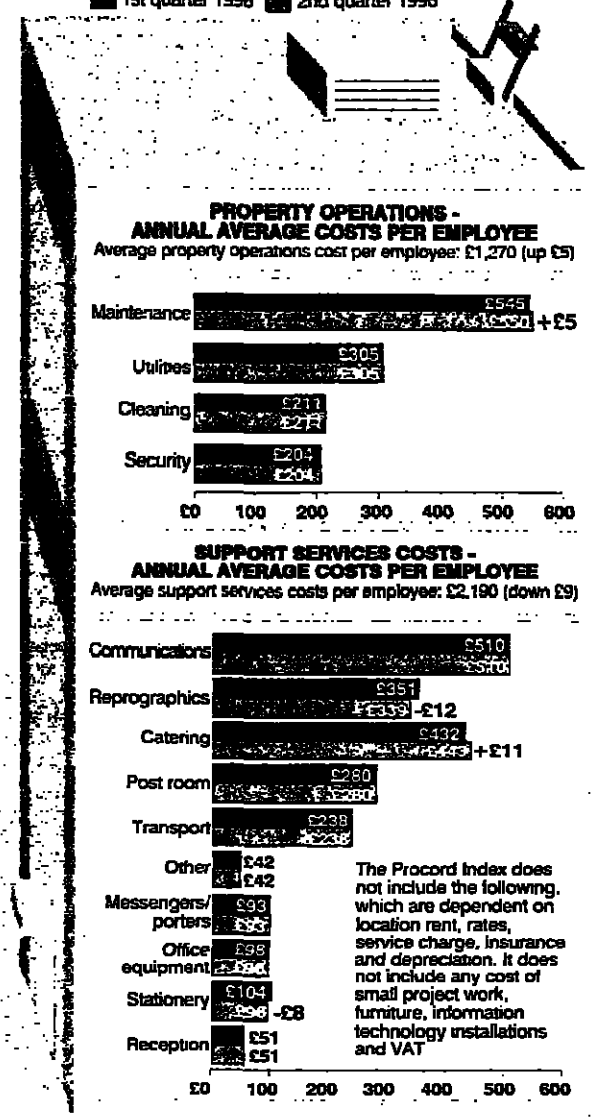
The property owned by an organisation may come under the finance director because it is a substantial cost while managing the facilities comes under a different department. Reporting channels can typically be cut to two with an office services manager and a technical services manager.

Mr Gardiner warns, however, that where management is cut back too hard there is a clear link between lower costs and lower efficiency.

He says: "Quite often low resourcing, and therefore costs, in terms of the management function, go hand in hand with high costs for most or all of the other facility cost centres. When the ratio between the two is considered,

THE TIMES/PROCORD OFFICE COSTS INDEX

■ 1st quarter 1996 ■ 2nd quarter 1996



the false economy of doing this can be seen.

"Inadequate resourcing of the facilities management function might save £100 an occupant a year, which represents £50,000 a year in a 10,000 sq m office building housing 500 people. If this leads to inefficient facility services, however, this might cost an additional £2,000 an occupant a year, or an additional £1 million a year."

"If a firm gets the management of its facilities wrong, it may employ a very good contractor to do the wrong job working to the wrong specifications. More significantly, the quality of the service will probably be lower as well. This will lead to further costs in terms of lost production."

The fall in management costs was the main change in the second quarter. The cost of

reprographics and stationery also fell sharply.

Barry Varcoe, Procord international performance manager, says: "In reprographics, labour costs have risen by 3 per cent over the past year but paper costs have fallen dramatically, sometimes by as much as 20 per cent over the quarter. The reason is not entirely clear, although it seems that organisations had stockpiled paper and were running stocks down while prices were high. The overall effect of these shifts is a fall in reprographics costs by 3.5 per cent."

The main cost increase came in catering, where labour and food costs continue to rise in line with inflation.

Overall, average property costs have fallen £23 per employee in the second quarter.



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There's more than just food on the menu.



GARDNER MERCHANT

When FM is caught on the hop

When we drive out of London of a Friday evening and head for Wales, my husband and I have switched to long-wave by the time we hit Reading. We have to wait for Radio 4 all the way. For Radio 4 is carried not only on FM, but on the blessed long wave, which stays with you up hill and down dale.

For our three-hour journey, we have tried to stick to FM. It offers superior quality and easy access to lots of the other stations that we like. But that would require returning along the way because the short range of the FM signal means that its transmitters have to be dotted all over the country and inevitably there are gaps in between.

Returning a car radio is not easy at 70-plus miles an hour, even if done by a passenger holding the radio frequency guide. The BBC's engineers could not be more helpful. "When you get to the middle of the M4, between Reading and Swindon, leave 93.5 and switch to 94.3. Then when you get Raglan way, go over to 93.1, then between Aberystwyth and Brecon back to the 94.3." Even so, near Aberystwyth: "Under the flank of the hill — the 94.3 goes terrible."

Better, it is suggested, that we upgrade to a technology designed to meet the needs of the listener on wheels. An RDS radio (the letters stand for Radio Data System) is programmed to track any given station.

That is, it will take unto itself the road-rage-inducing task of finding where in the air the best FM signal for your desired station is lying.

Dare we take the plunge? True, the price has come down to about £100 for the cheapest sets. Alas, I am reliably informed, they don't live up to their promise. They have a habit of racing through the dial, hopping from one FM transmitter to another in search of a signal that meets their standard. As one retail supplier admitted to me: "They can get confused quite easily."

Unfortunately many important stations — Radios 1, 2 and 3, and Classic FM, to name but a few — broadcast only on FM. It is a fact of life: FM is the fickle waveband. Fine for those fixed on one spot — in kitchen, bedroom or building site — but a pest on the road. A passing motorbike or tall building can cause a split of static.

So why should 25 people be fighting to own the last London-wide FM station likely to become available? Not for the quality of its promised reception. The Radio Authority, charged with awarding commercial radio licences, makes no bones about the difficulties. The allocation up for grabs, 104.9 FM, is about to be vacated by Melody Radio because of its unsatisfactory coverage in

southwestern stretches of Greater London.

The collective eagerness for London FM ownership springs from commercial radio's new prosperity. Revenues are soaring, and radio now takes a healthy 4 per cent of all spending on display (that is, not classified) advertising. A local radio can be run on a shoestring and big audiences are available.

Capital Radio is one of the bidders for the new London FM licence because of the new Broadcasting Act. This allows, for the first time, a single owner to own two stations on the same waveband in a single area. Were Capital to win the new licence, it could put another one of its services, Capital Gold, now on medium wave, onto FM. Atlantic 252 nourishes similar hopes.

But what the Bill gives with one hand, it takes away with the other. It stipulates that before any owner can obtain a second London FM licence, the Radio Authority must judge that the award will increase "plurality and diversity" in the capital. One easy way to this goal would be to pick one of the more narrowly targeted services on offer. Other applications are dedicated to the Irish, the gay, the French, the middle-aged, the young, the old, the Tamil-speaking and the reggae-loving.

Yet the members of the Radio Authority could as logically decide that diversity will be best served by allowing Capital Gold and Atlantic 252 to reach, for the first time, the FM audience.

Shining temptingly over all this expansion is the American example. In most cities there seems to be a different station for each decimal point on the FM band. But America has the luxury of geographical separation. Broadcasting frequencies can be re-used, assigned in one city to Haitians, to Chinese or classical music lovers in another. But such re-use is not possible on a tight little island.

A final word of caution. My technical advisers warn me against swallowing all the current enthusiasm about the next radio wonder: DAB (for digital audio broadcasting). DAB is coming, beyond a doubt. And it will certainly allow a much wider expansion of commercial uses of the airwaves. But these are much more likely to be found in personal communications, such as mobile telephones and pagers.

Even the Department of Trade and Industry, whose enthusiasm for DAB is second only to the BBC's, acknowledges the snag. To provide any new national radio networks with digital transmission will require the replacement of all transmitters and, unless these are converted, of all radio sets. And when the DTI admits to doubts, you'd better have doubts yourself.



BRENDA MADDOX

Cheers, it's your round...

AFTER winning his well-earned £9,000-a-year pay rise, John Carlisle, MP is debating what to do with another little windfall.

Clearly stung by criticism of the 26 per cent rise, the Member for Luton North appeared on national radio to reveal the hardships faced by our hard-pressed MPs and earned himself a more modest amount.

"MPs have been facing hardships and there are many junior ministers who are, believe it or not, on the breadline and struggling to keep their family and two homes going," an emotional Carlisle told broadcaster Paul Ross on Talk Radio.

The speech obviously moved listeners across the



Hard times: John Carlisle and interviewer Paul Ross

country. One, a retired fireman, wrote him a cheque to ease the Tory's burdens.

Peter Allen, of Gloucester, said: "I was so incensed that I have sent him a cheque for £50 so he can buy a drink for someone without begrudging it."

HELP may be on its way to the Meat and Livestock Commission, which had its wrists slapped by the Advertising



Advertising and Sales Promotion Law is currently winging its way to the commission's HQ in Milton Keynes.

Helpfully, it contains a special chapter entitled "Misleading Advertisements".

Naked truth

NEWS that the Parliamentary Channel is launching its own Web site on the Internet could leave some MPs somewhat underwhelmed. The idea of the site, <http://www.parliament.co.uk/>, is to provide continuously updated information about what is happening at the Palace of Westminster.

With the click of a button, users will be able to call up a page for each of the sitting MPs, complete with colour photograph, biography and background information.

All very worthy in principle, but given that the latest craze on the Internet is to access naked images of famous people, certain Honourable Members might have reason to chew their nails. Particular-

ly those who have gone to spend more time with their families after bearing rather more than their fair share of young ladies who have later reappeared to tell all in national newspapers.

Rich irony

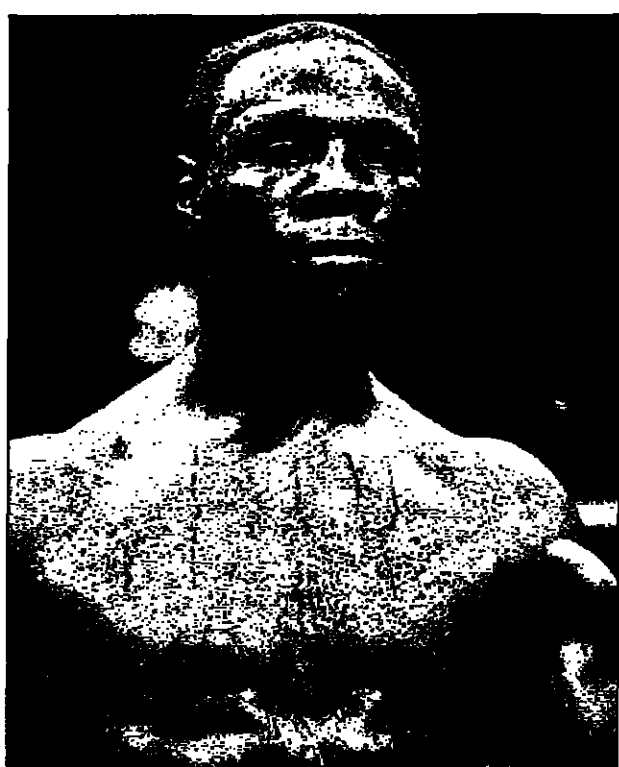
BASKING in rave reviews of its compelling series of programmes about poverty in Britain, Channel 4 is hosting a celebratory drinks party tomorrow night to thank all the directors, producers, researchers and so on who made the *Broke* season so successful.

The season included the much-praised *Postcards From the Edge* series, highlighting the plight of the forgotten, poor and dispossessed living on the breadline at the fringes of society.

Many of the stories were so harrowing they reduced viewers and television critics to tears.

And how will the champions of the poor toast their success? With champagne, naturally...

Watchdog throws its Net still wider



Boxer Chris Eubank is to plug the delights of Brighton

The Advertising Standards Authority is boldly venturing where others have feared to tread by extending its watchdog remit to embrace ads on the Internet as well as in the press.

Until now, any individual could erect any form of advertisement on the hitherto uncensored global information superhighway and make any kind of commercial claim, however dubious it might be, with impunity.

But from this week the Net will be subject to the celebrated stringent British Codes of Advertising, helping it to gain long-awaited credibility as an advertising medium.

Anyone commissioning, creating or publishing advertisements on the Net will now benefit from free advice, while disgruntled consumers will be offered an official route for their complaints.

There's just one problem. The ASA can rule only on advertisements in the United Kingdom, so surfers will have to treat with the usual suspi-

tion any advertisements from beyond our shores.

CHRIS EUBANK, the former world super-middleweight champion, and newly-crowned Lord of Brighton, is to make his TV advertising debut in a commercial plugging the benefits of visiting the South Coast resort.

The ad, by TBWA, is to be aired next month. It lists the many varied attractions on offer in the town, from windsurfing to arts festivals, antiques fairs "and the odd celebrity", it says, against shots of Eubank clad in his finest gentleman's apparel, dundery around in his truck with its KOI registration plate or sitting astride his gleaming Harley-Davidson.

The original script, by TBWA's Trevor Beattie, had Eubank appearing as a boxer but the self-styled Brighton noble, now retired from the sport, no longer wants to be associated with it and so

completely rewrote the commercial. "Chris is a star. He's a genuine one-off. And I'll be crediting him if I enter the ad for any awards," promises Beattie.

BBJ Media Services, one of the UK's top ten media buying agencies, is closely monitoring the habits of the nation's youth. It will quiz a group of teenagers every school term until the year 2000 on their views on TV, advertising, cinema and other crucial media matters.

Levi's has so far proven to be the top commercial among 14-year-olds, followed by Walker's Salt 'n' Liners crisps. Several, rather unexpectedly, claim they like Saffron's work — particularly since the advent of Harry's controversial "romance" with Molly. I wonder how their tastes will mature from ads for crisps, blue jeans and super-markets that encourage rather suspect encounters between toddlers.

BELINDA ARCHER

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4CAST is a unique multi-media analytical service offered on subscription to financial institutions in the City. Launched in 1995 the service has been so successful that we are now recruiting two additional account managers to represent 4CAST both in London and Financial Centres of Europe.

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A competitive remuneration package is offered which includes a generous commission scheme but more important are the outstanding prospects in a new company destined to become a market leader.

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The successful candidate must have a good understanding of construction design with a background in architecture or surveying. He/she must have excellent communication skills and be prepared to work independently in the national and international construction trades. Full training will be provided.

Please write with a full CV to: Michael Peckover, Managing Director, Alston Stone Quarries Ltd, Wray, Cheshire, WA25 9JL. Closing Date: 1 August 1996.



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To find out more please fax, telephone or write to our advising consultant Karen Linchfield, The Davis Company, 32-34 Great Titchfield Street, London W1P 7AD. Telephone: 0171 323 6696, Fax: 0171 323 6697.

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Matthew Freud often commands as many column inches as his clients, while Julia Carling is seen by some as indicative of the dizzy heights attainable by a former PR

A matter of trust or tricks

After years of pestering journalists and broadcasters to feature their clients, and peddle their products, the public relations operatives who feed on the British media are about to have the tables turned upon them. Keith Cooper, head of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House, is to make a series on the dos and don'ts of PR, and is pitching for a slot on the BBC.

The last time he appeared on television, sacking a box-office manager, haranguing a minion and closing the Opera House shop, he caused an outcry. It is no less likely to happen this time.

For there is no more contentious question — among those on the receiving end — than the iniquities of PR. The meaningless releases. The miserable pitches on behalf of minor celebrities. The evasiveness when anything interesting happens. They are truly the bane of efficient offices.

Perhaps the most PR-besieged journalist in Britain is Andy Coulson of *The Sun's* Bizarre column. "It's not unusual to find 50 letters from PRs arriving in the office in the morning," he says. It is rare that any of them make a story.

"Some agencies are good but most have no idea what a newspaper is about at all. They think that some pop

group that no-one has ever heard of can get three paragraphs in *Bizarre* as soon as they hit the charts. Nothing on a press release is of much interest to me. But there are some who understand what I want, and I can do business with them. If they know what we want, which is an exclusive, and they know what their clients want, then I am always prepared to meet half way. If I don't want it, then it will end up in the *Mirror*."

David Johnson, formerly an executive at the *Evening Standard* and *The Daily Telegraph*, now with *The Sunday Times*, is one of the few journalists who will say on the record what most are only prepared to say off the record. "They have no understanding at all of how a newspaper works. I gave a lecture once at a course for trainee PRs — though God knows what they teach them — and I went round the newsroom. I asked dozens of people to name the best PR in London, and they all said the same: there isn't one. My first gesture, at the lecture, was to produce a foot-high pile of press releases from my bag, and say 'This is the first thing I do when I get to work each morning', then I dropped them all in a bin."

In general, whether or not a release from a PR is opened on its way to the bin is largely a

matter of the company name. Some firms send product launches disguised as stories, others just send brand updates disguised as product launches. The longer and glossier the press release, the more rubbish the story — always.

"A press release really has no more than a one in a thousand chance of getting in the paper," says Johnson. "But there are lazy journalists who will take the stuff straight out and use it. PRs depend on a sort of tit-for-tat relationship with them. Their manner is so offensive. They call up using only their Christian name, and address you by yours. There are no more than four or five good PRs in the arts — like Erica Bolton, who understands a story, and doesn't pester. It is a motormouth profession that has always attracted very silly people, with no understanding of the media, and no vision."

But this is a world in which the PR professional orchestrates every aspect of public

life — and names like Max Clifford, Matthew Freud, Lynne Franks, and Tim Bell often court as much column space as their clients — it is bizarre to reflect that there was ever a world without them, that a public (or occasionally private) figure's "image" was manipulated by anybody but themselves.

But today the PR industry employs 40,000 people and turns over £1 billion a year. It is second only to journalism as the most sought-after career by graduates (who see the example of Julia Carling, perhaps as indicative of the dizzy heights attainable by an ex-PR), and nobody takes his or her head out of a paper bag without consulting one. Furthermore, a 1994 survey by the Public Relations Consultants Association claimed that 10-20 per cent of national newspaper stories are PR-driven.

But Bernard Docherty, of Laister Dixon, who represents Tina Turner, Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones, la-

ments the mystique that attaches itself to PR. "It is not so mysterious," he says. "It is just about getting to know what the papers want, and then using all the tricks to make sure they get it. There is no mystique."

The most notorious publicist of all, Max Clifford, is less oblique. "Lies and deceit are important weapons," he says, "and I am the only one who admits it. If you ask me whether my client is gay, I say 'no, he is not', knowing full well that he is."

Veteran PR Liz Brewer laments the fact that "every other girl you meet now has a card that says 'PR' on it, and with the professionals suggesting the proliferation of lies and fakers, you just don't know where to turn."

As a rule Freud Communications are considered useful for freebies, but often talk a better story than is ultimately produced. Lowe-Bell are famed for being well-connected and smooth, but are as sharp as any, whereas Aurelia are thought genuinely pulk — the Hon Aurelia Cecil has all the top parties, but loyalty to her aristocratic clients keeps any true dirt from being dished. David Burnside, of DBA, places a lot of very big stories, as does Peter Thom-

son, the doyen on West End theatre, who does for Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cameron Macintosh.

If the media can manage without the new middleman, the question returns to whether the stars can survive without them? "That depends," says Clifford. "Look at Pamela Anderson, she had Stuart Higgins instead. Two years ago he decided that she was a good thing for *The Sun*, and she was made. Look at Cliff Richard. That stunt at Wimbledon was priceless. I heard Mark Borkowski had a hand in it, but you never know."

This is the point, you never do know. Borkowski is more familiar to journalists for attempts to promote products, from Action Man to the Albert Hall, with glib stunts. As Clifford says: "You can promote anything."

Last May Borkowski lured half a dozen national newspaper journalists, three television crews and two radio reporters to the Albert Hall to spend a night waiting for a ghost. Each was told that they would be alone. The outrage of each individual, coned into travelling to Kensington after midnight, was directed at the PR company for lying about exclusivity. It is the triumph of PR that nobody thought to complain about the absence of ghosts.

Worries as BBC's golden age draws to a close

Commercial expansion is the only way forward, says Eric Reguly

THE BBC was positively brimming with optimism yesterday. John Birt, the Director-General, and Sir Christopher Bland, the new Chairman, spoke about a "golden period" in programme making. They unveiled charts showing that the share of the viewing and listening audience had held steady, in spite of an onslaught from competing services. Financially, the BBC was as healthy as it has ever been: it could even afford to raise Birt's pay by £27,000 to almost £300,000.

In short, the 1995-96 reports and accounts showed that the BBC was "in fine creative shape, leaner and fitter, and ready to face the challenges of the digital era."

Why then, is the BBC management so terrified? The answer, it seems, is that the golden age is drawing to a close. The television and radio market in Britain is becoming increasingly competitive. Channel 5, the newest terrestrial service, is to begin broadcasting next year, and satellite and cable television channels are coming on strong.

It used to be that all of the people watched BBC most of the time. In the near future, it is likely that only some of the people will watch it only some of the time. The BBC's nightmare scenario is a general rebellion. As the service becomes less popular and the market more fragmented, how much longer can it justify squeezing the public for an ever-increasing licence fee? It is now £89.50 a year, up from £86.50.

The BBC has held up fairly well so far. According to the latest figures, its share of the viewing and listening audience held steady at 45 per cent in 1995-96, down only marginally from 46 per cent two years ago. The proportion of UK householders viewing and listening to at least two hours of BBC programming a week also held steady, at 95 per cent. Although BBC2 is under pressure, the more popular BBC1 is making a comeback against ITV. ITV's weekly average viewing share fell from 39 per cent to 37 per cent, while BBC1's remained unchanged at 32 per cent.

On the financial front, the news was equally cheery. Licence-fee income rose 9 per cent to £1.82 billion and borrowings, which fell by half to

£35 million, should be eliminated by the end of the year. Another round of redundancies — the number of home-services employees fell by 850 during the year — has created "efficiency savings" of some £100 million, on top of the £200 million in annual savings already achieved since 1992-93.

But this is as good as it is going to get. Clearly, the BBC cannot rely forever on redundancy savings or substantial rises in licence fee income. At best, that income will rise by the rate of inflation. The BBC has to develop an alternative source of income so it can, for example, bid for sports rights — lack of funds lost it the Grand Prix and the FA Cup last year — and finance quality productions such as *Pride and Prejudice*.

This is where Bob Phillis, the BBC's deputy-director-general, comes in. Mr Phillis is the former chief executive of ITN and has been at the BBC for 3½ years. He recognises the danger of relying almost exclusively on licence-fee income. Phillis's vehicle for developing a second stream of income is BBC Worldwide.

where he was recently made chief executive. The two-year-old company is the BBC's commercial arm and is charged with licensing and distributing the BBC's programming around the world, publishing magazines such as *Top Gear* and books such as *Delia Smith's Winter Collection*, and selling the BBC World Service.

BBC Worldwide had a turnover of £338 million in the year and contributed £77 million, up from £53 million in the previous year, directly to the BBC. In the overall scheme of things, it does not add up to much, but Phillis has ambitious plans. Publicly he says he intends to double or triple the division's contributions to the BBC within ten years; privately, he hopes to go much further. If the BBC is to thrive, he has to.

The BBC has to create, and retain control of, new channels and form partnerships to exploit new markets. It has to start pay-channels and launch fee-paying services such as video-on-demand and CD-Rom publishing. The BBC will never become a wholly commercial service but going half way, it appears, is its best hope of survival.

Big pay rise: John Birt

John Birt

Fleet Street sells a cut-price success story



urged in the middle market, where the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express*, once the undisputed market leaders, have been overtaken by the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday*. Over the past five years, the *Daily Mail* is up by 340,000 for the *Daily Express*. On Sundays, the *Mail* is up by 152,000. Meanwhile the

Sunday Express has plummeted by 436,000 and now sells fewer copies than *The Sunday Times*. Yet the biggest success story has been *The Times*, which established a new record sale last month — obviously helped by selling at 10p on Mondays for the summer of sport — of 724,839. That meant that sales have now doubled since 1993, repeating the success of *The Daily Telegraph* when it cut its

price from twopenny to a penny in 1930. Three years ago *The Times* lagged 650,000 behind *The Daily Telegraph*. The gap has now narrowed to 330,000.

It is easy to buy quick circulation fixes in Fleet Street. A serialisation of a sensational book, advertised on television on a Sunday night, always boosts sales — which quickly fall back once the serial is over. What has been remarkable about *The Times* since 1993 is that readers who were tempted to buy the paper at a cheaper price have obviously enjoyed what they read — a paper radically reorganised four years ago to be more reader-friendly — and carried on buying it. New readers who buy the 10p *Times* on Monday buy the 30p *Times* the rest of the week.

Successful newspapers always have editors with flair and courage and/or owners who love newspapers. That is as true of *The Guardian* or *The Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*, which have also been successes in the past five years, as it is of *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail* (which did not cut its price) or *The Times*. Yet editors with flair and courage do not always run successful newspapers. Sometimes their papers are stuck with the wrong image. Sometimes their owners fail to broadcast their merits or to support them through difficult times. There has been no more successful tactic in helping those editors in this generation than the price war.

SUCCESS AND FAILURE IN FLEET STREET, 1991-1996

	1996	+/- on January	+/- June 95	+/- June 91
Sun	3,970,155	-158,330	-16,875	+335,335
Mirror	2,408,455	-151,697	-194,110	-503,447
Star	667,453	-105,764	-58,782	-188,011
Mail	2,038,039	-27,948	+284,786	+335,917
Express	1,219,591	-46,376	-38,160	-340,649
Telegraph	1,054,314	+1,168	-18,121	+2,242
Times	724,839	+36,847	+42,420	+332,321
Guardian	391,062	-17,124	-714	-22,007
Independent	272,928	-19,481	-30,345	-104,334
F.T.	300,889	+5,777	+6,788	
N.O.W.	4,585,807	-131,949	-96,166	-194,293
S. Mirror	2,412,005	-104,108	-215,511	-380,455
People	2,038,302	-88,503	+1,154	-241,484
M.O.S.	2,045,139	-89,806	+80,048	+152,929
S. Express	1,202,354	-84,429	-164,478	-436,163
S. Times	1,298,678	+442	+28,720	+158,405
Observer	443,348	-8,181	-8,183	-126,536
S. Telegraph	683,819	+4,867	-22,030	+128,536
Independent/S	294,923	-14,191	-39,917	-72,802

Source: ABC

The fiercest price war in the history of Fleet Street was launched three years ago this month when News International cut the price of *The Sun* by 5p to 20p. It was a dramatic marketing tactic aimed at reversing years of declining sales of national newspapers and was followed, two months later, by a reduction in the price of *The Times* by 15p to 30p. Within a year almost every newspaper had joined in.

Now, three years on, some newspaper commentators are asking if the tactic really worked and suggesting that millions of pounds have been thrown away in lost profits, advertising on television and ever more desperate reader promotions — all to achieve an overall increase in sales of national daily newspapers of just 38,000 a day.

Even though that 38,000 is at least up instead of down, they have a point. Sales figures in June were even more depressing for the Editors of the *Express* and *Independent* titles than they were three years ago. Nor was there any real comfort for the *Mirror* group titles (apart from *The People*) or the new Editors of *The Observer*.

Adding to the grief, all the daily and Sunday tabloids sold fewer copies last month than in January. Month on month, sales of the daily tabloids were down by 157,750 (in spite of Euro 96) and year on year by 76,700. Since January, only five of the 19 national newspapers, all broadsheets, have increased sales.

So, yes, newspaper sales remain in seemingly inescapable decline, despite the price war. Yet the overall trend conceals significant successes which show that even the Editors and owners of the *Express* or *Independent* titles should not despair. Victory can still be snatched from the jaws of defeat.

Until the early 1970s, the *Daily Mirror* was the undisputed — if complacent — king of the mass-market. Once *The Sun* was bought by Rupert Murdoch and edited by Larry Lamb, it captured the mood of the times and quickly overtook the *Daily Mirror*. It has remained ahead ever since.

Yet three years ago, sales were beginning to slip. They were down from more than 4 million in the late 1980s to 3.4 million by June 1993. A year later, sales were back at 4.1 million and slipped only marginally below 4 million last month for the first time this year. When *The Sun* cut its price, its lead over the *Daily Mirror* was 825,000 a day. Three years later it is 1.5 million a day. On a five-year trend (see table), the *Daily Mirror* has dropped by 500,000 as *The Sun* has risen by 335,000.

The same story has occurred

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JULY 17 1996

P&O and Stena permitted to end Channel 'ferry war'

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE creation of a multi-billion pound ferry group to compete on equal terms with Eurotunnel came a crucial step closer yesterday when the Government gave P&O and Stena approval to enter into merger talks.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, lifted a 17-year-old ban on commercial negotiations between the two leading ferry companies after an appeal from Lord Sierling, chairman of P&O. Mr Lang said: "I do not believe that I would be justified in maintaining restrictions on P&O in relation to a possible merger with Stena beyond the normal consideration that would be given to such a

transaction under competition legislation." The Government's decision to reverse the ban, which also applied to Hoverspeed, follows an intense price war on the Channel routes triggered by the competition from Le Shuttle, Eurotunnel's train service.

Ferry ticket prices are down by as much as two thirds on last summer with profit margins cut to the bone. The cost of a return crossing for a car and up to five passengers has fallen to as low as £49. There has also been a sharp rise in the number of daily crossings between Dover and Calais from 65 to more than 80 since Stena's split from SNAT, its French counterpart.

The announcement will send shock waves through the 5,000-strong P&O and

Stena workforces in Dover. It was warmly welcomed by the ferry companies, which have been badly hit by the outbreak of "ferry wars" since the Channel Tunnel opened. Lord Sierling said: "I am glad that at last the Government is allowing us to act in a commercial manner. The cross-Channel ferry market entered a new phase with the opening of Eurotunnel. The Government has finally recognised this."

"We have always said that, even with the strong market growth we are seeing, there is too much capacity, and rationalisation is needed. We can now get ahead with looking at how best to achieve this."

Garth Cooper, managing director of Stena Line, said dismantling the restric-

tions "may be of benefit to the whole industry". He added: "Our preferred strategy remains to establish a strong, stand-alone business on Dover-Calais, but we have always said we will listen to any suggestions that might now arise from competitors in the light of today's announcement."

Eurotunnel also welcomed the announcement. John Noulton, the company's director of public affairs, said: "This is a sensible decision. The competitive situation on the Channel has changed radically since the undertakings were given." The announcement comes as Eurotunnel approaches the completion of its protracted and highly complex £8 billion refinancing talks with its 225 banks.

Talks between Stena and P&O executives about co-operating on the short Channel routes are expected to begin within weeks. Any merger would still need to clear British and European competition rules.

Mr Lang's decision went beyond the recommendation of John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, who had advised lifting only a 1979 ban on talks about fares and pooling of fleets. Mr Lang said a 1982 agreement not to enter into merger negotiations should also be scrapped.

The agreements were confirmed by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1989 and the most recent request for them to be lifted was rejected in 1993 by Sir Tim Sainsbury, who was then Trade Minister.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3632.3	(-66.0)
Yield	4.18%	
FT-SE All share	1808.18	(-34.54)
Nasdaq	21406.36	(-347.07)
New York		
Dow Jones	5312.89	(-36.62)
S&P Composite	622.44	(-7.36)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 1/8%	(8 1/2%)
Yield	7.06%	(7.06%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)
Future (Sep)		

STERLING		
New York		
\$	1.5590*	(1.5523)
London		
\$	1.5576	(1.5508)
DM	2.3242	(2.3548)
FF	7.8744	(7.8740)
Sfr	1.5046	(1.5042)
Yen	170.18	(171.06)
£ Index	85.5	(86.2)

DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.4894*	(1.5158)
FF	5.9480*	(5.1350)
Sfr	1.2219*	(1.2500)
Yen	109.14*	(110.28)
£ Index	96.8	(97.4)

Tokyo close Yen 109.06

MONTHLY BEN ONE		
Brnt 15-day (Sep)	\$19.85	(\$20.00)

GOLD		
London close	\$385.45	(\$383.25)

* denotes midday trading price

PSBR rise setback for Clarke strategy

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer's assertion — only last week — that public borrowing is clearly on a downward trend came into question yesterday after figures showed a much larger than expected public sector borrowing requirement in June.

Taking out privatisation proceeds, the figures showed that the level of borrowing in the first three months of the current tax year is £700 million above the total seen in the same period last year.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday that the figure left him feeling uncomfortable.

The PSBR in June was £3.6 billion, well above the £3 billion expected in the City. In addition, May's PSBR was revised up by £300 million. Together, this took the cumulative PSBR this year, including privatisation, to £10.7 billion, compared with £11.3 billion.

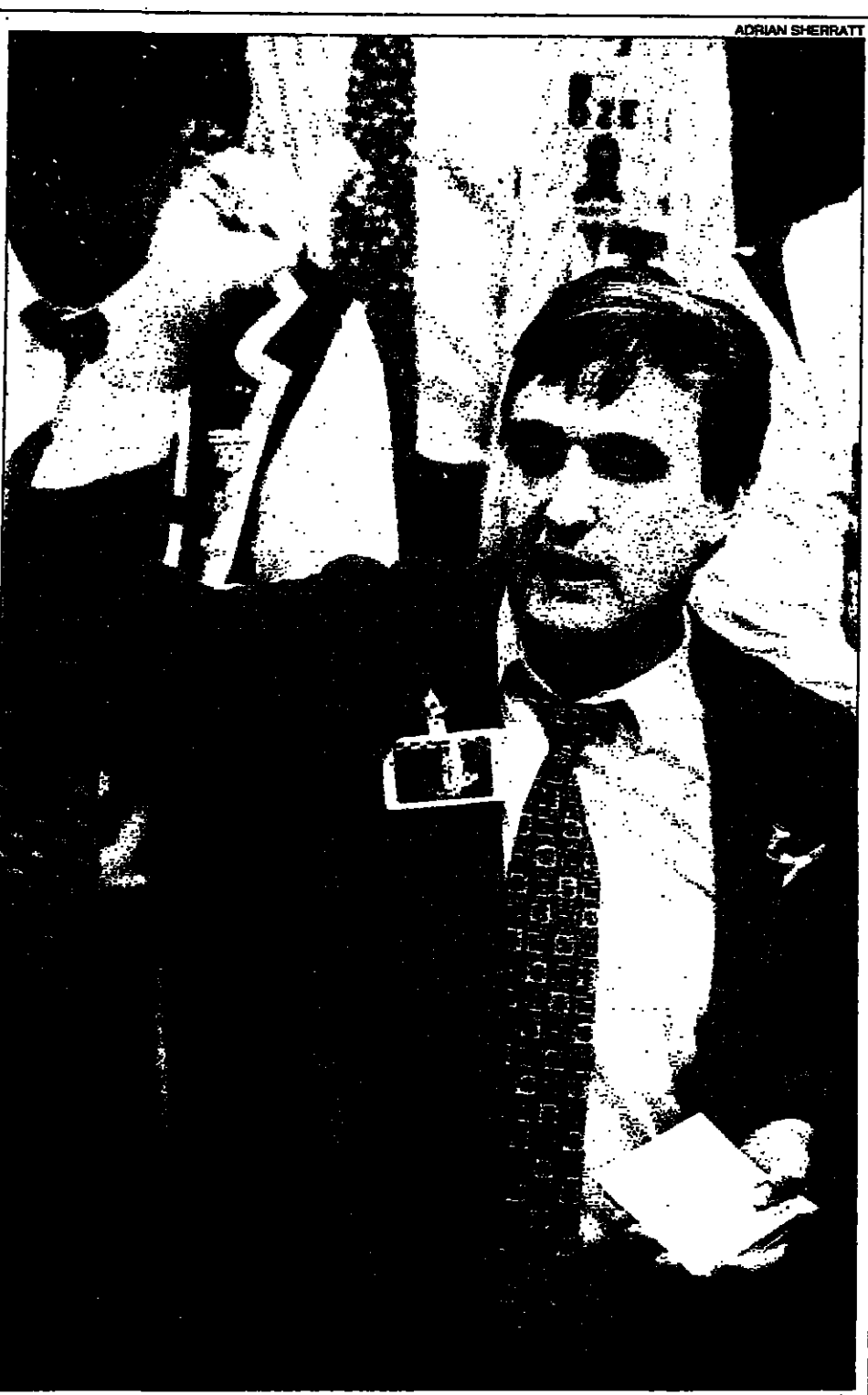
However, taking out privatisation, the cumulative totals are £12 billion, compared with £11.3 billion at the same stage last year.

In his *Summer Economic Forecast*, Kenneth Clarke revised his 1995 Budget forecast of a £22.4 billion PSBR to £26.9 billion.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday that the June PSBR was inflated by a bunching of interest payments in June and added that the Government was still confident about hitting its new target.

But Andrew Smith, Shadow Chief Secretary, said: "It is alarming that the underlying trend of public borrowing — that is excluding privatisation receipts — is still worse than last year's dismal performance."

Giving testimony to the Commons Treasury Select Committee on the *Summer Economic Forecast* yesterday, Mr George said that he was aware that the public deficit was not falling as steeply as it had been thought previously. After yesterday's figures, he suggested that the decline was



A trader on the London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday

Yorkshire Water investors urged to oppose new chief

By Jason Nisse

YORKSHIRE WATER, which was fined £40 million by Ofwat, the industry regulator, because of its handling of last year's drought, faces a damaging battle with shareholders over the appointment of Brandon Gough, its new chairman.

Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, is recommending investors oppose Mr Gough's appointment at next week's annual meeting because he will not be able to dedicate enough time to the job.

Mr Gough, 58, who chaired the accountants Coopers & Lybrand when they audited the Maxwell empire, lives in Kent, 200 miles from Yorkshire, is the director of three public companies and chairs two Government bodies. He will receive £120,000 a year and says that he can devote two days a week to the role, though this is not specified in his contract.

"There is an advantage to having a chairman based in London because of access to the City," Mr Gough said yesterday. "It is not a complicated company."

Anne Simpson of Pirc said the consultancy offered to drop its opposition if Mr Gough dropped some of his outside interests. "This is a company at a critical point in its development, with the regulator breathing down its neck. It is not a soft touch."

Pirc threw its weight behind the candidacy of Diana Scott, a customer who tried to get on to Yorkshire Water's board two years ago.

London hit by Wall Street roller-coaster

By Janet Bush

THE threat of meltdown on Wall Street spread to European stock markets yesterday and London posted its biggest one-day fall in more than two years.

Favourable inflation figures from America, showing a rise of only 0.1 per cent in consumer prices in June, appeared to stabilise US shares briefly yesterday afternoon after their plunge of 161 points on Monday. European stocks lifted off their lows but then Wall Street tumbled again.

After European markets closed, the Dow Jones industrial average whipsawed wildly. At one point, it plunged 160 points, recovered 60 points in ten minutes, then recouped all the losses of the day to register as unchanged in mid afternoon trading.

In London, the FT-SE 100 index at one point fell 85 points to a new 1996 low of 3,612.6. It recovered a little to end 66 points lower at 3,632.3. At one point, the German stock market was quoted 3 per cent lower and the French market was down around 2 per cent.

The turmoil stems mostly from America, where the mood has turned viciously negative in the stock market, if not in the bond market which has held up relatively well. George Magnus, chief economist at UBS, said that strong

Knight payout

Hundreds of elderly investors with Knight Williams, the firm of retirement income specialists now in liquidation, stand to receive compensation payments totalling up to £7 million after the former adviser was declared "in default" by the Investors Compensation Scheme. Page 26, Pennington 27

BAA takeoff

Shares in BAA rose against the market trend yesterday as the airport operator emerged largely unscathed from a review by its regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority. BAA will continue to be allowed by the CAA to run all three London airports. Page 27, Tempus 28

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Leeds Utd manager could net £500,000



By Jason Nisse

HOWARD WILKINSON, the manager of Leeds United, could receive a bonus of more than £500,000 if the £16.5 million deal to sell the Premiership football club to Caspian Group goes through.

Mr Wilkinson's contract, which was only agreed by the club in February, also says he will be paid his full salary and bonus until June 1999 if he is sacked at any time before that. The club has legal advice that this could cost £1.8 million.

Caspian's offer may trigger a "change of control clause" within Mr Wilkinson's contract, which gives him shares worth twice his annual salary if the club is taken over. The contract says he is paid £330,000 a year, but £50,000 of this is a guaranteed bonus and only around £170,000 is

deemed "salary". However it is believed the clause could also apply to another annual payment of £110,000 within the contract, making the amount in Leeds shares he should receive £560,000.

Caspian has offered to pay £16.5 million for the entire share capital of Leeds, but this does not include Mr Wilkinson's shares. A spokeswoman for Caspian said it did not believe the clause would be triggered as it "involves the movement of people, not equity."

Caspian's offer has been accepted by Leslie Silver, Leeds chairman, and Bill Fotherby, managing director. Peter Gilman, Leeds's deputy chairman and a 33 per cent shareholder, is rejecting the deal and has taken legal action to block it. Mr Gilman is expected today to write to shareholders urging them to reject Caspian's offer. He is backing a £20 million bid from Conrad, the leisurewear group.

The Caspian offer may also face problems because of a number of errors within the listing particulars for new Caspian shares being issued because of the bid. The mistakes include the wrong name for director Richard Thompson, the wrong company described as receiving £250,000 and a reference to Mr Thompson being a director of a company owned by ABN Amro, the Dutch bank.

Caspian said the errors were not material and it did not expect the Stock Exchange to make it resubmit the listing particulars. Such a move would delay the bid because the shareholders' meeting convened to approve the deal can only take place three weeks after a revised document is sent out.

□ UK firms prefer to invest abroad □ Assigning the blame over Knight Williams □ Lang's cross-Channel bombshell

Foreign grass is always greener

□ THE United Kingdom is a wonderful place to do business—unless you live there. The flood of companies desperate to buy into corporate Britain is almost precisely matched by the flood of British business desperate to set up shop anywhere else.

There is a staggering mismatch between the level of overseas investment in the UK and elsewhere in Europe that would gladden the heart of any Euro-sceptic, according to KPMG Corporate Finance, which yesterday released a study of investment patterns for the first half of this year.

Consider these comparisons. Foreign companies spent \$18.7 billion buying businesses in Britain, population 55 million or thereabouts. In France, population roughly ditto, they spent \$3.65 billion. In the German economic titan, population 80 million, just \$2.1 billion.

These figures come a week after the Department of Trade and Industry, in a much-leaked trumpeting of national pride, showed that inward investment, the other entry on that side of the British corporate balance sheet, was running at record levels. Britain was the enterprise centre of Europe, low taxes, high performance — one would have thought this tiny island had been uprooted and dragged by tug-boat half-way around the world

to the South China Sea. Foreign investors are flooding in undeterred by pre-election jitters or dithering over the single market. For those Euro-sceptics this only confirms the damage done by the social chapter and other such Euro-beastliness.

Oddly enough they are right, up to a point. Acquisitions in France and Germany, and other continental nations, are so few because of the barriers deliberately erected to foreign buyers. Any experienced businessman can tell horror stories of tortuous Dutch consultation processes, the intransigence of German banks or French xenophobia.

But look at the other side of that corporate balance sheet. British companies have their own pre-occupations — they spent £16 billion buying businesses overseas in the first half. Investments such as the £1.7 billion pledged by LG Group in South Wales last week are not being matched by indigenous industrialists. Such huge greenfield developments tend to reflect the ambitions of foreign multinationals alone.

Those businesses are not look-

ing to set up in Britain out of any great affection for our productivity or tax levels, they are looking for a base in the EC. This country is the only one with a sufficiently open corporate culture to allow acquisitions, while those greenfield developments are funded by huge government subsidies — LG received the equivalent of £33,000 in regional aid for every job created. The investment was delayed by the Koreans until they were certain Britain had mended fences with the EC over beef. The clear implication is that any further ruptures with Europe and that inward flood of investment could dry up at once.

Caught in the regulatory web

□ FEW usually emerge with much credit from scandals such as Knight Williams, one of the nastier in financial circles for many years, least of all the confusing array of regulators whose job it is to prevent them but who generally end up playing pass the parcel with the unfortunate victims.



Back in 1988 complaints about Knight Williams, billed as a retirement income planning specialist, began to surface. First Fimbra, the old regulator for independent financial advisers now replaced by the Personal Investment Authority, looked into the growing number of dissatisfied clients.

The claim was of inappropriate advice to those clients, most retired and many elderly, who needed the best possible income with as little risk to their capital as possible. Clients said their portfolios were switched around unnecessarily and that the value of their investments fell even when the stock market was buoyant. Knight Williams consistently denied the charges.

In August 1994 Fimbra fined KW £50,000 with costs of £23,400 for a number of breaches of the rules. But the pressure exerted by a growing band of dissatisfied investors, led by Kenneth Jordan, a redoubtable 72-year-old, continued. It reached such proportions that the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, had to take the unprecedented step of establishing a special complaints channel late in 1994.

Last year Singer & Friedlander paid £15 million to KW for the £400 million of funds under management, and some of this money was said to have been put aside to meet compensation payments. Last summer the SIB did some tentative sums and found that around 400 investors had claimed compensation that could top £2 million. Then KW filed for voluntary liquidation.

So yet again investors lost out. It has taken the Investors Compensation Scheme, not a regulator but an official rescue fund, the free services of Dibb Lupton, the lawyer, and Robson Rhodes, the accountant, and the intervention of Angela Knight,

the Treasury Minister, to bring about an end to this scandal. A pity the SIB could not do the job properly in the first place.

Tunnelling in the dark

□ IT IS hard to know who should be angriest at the decision to allow the two main cross-Channel ferry operators to merge, the passengers or Eurotunnel shareholders.

On balance, perhaps the latter, since they have suffered enough already. Customers have enjoyed vastly improved service on the ferries — who remembers the days when loading and unloading the car and clearing customs could double the time of your journey? They have also seen the bloodiest of price wars, and not only for those prepared to travel outside peak times.

The undertakings that required Stena and P&O to compete, tacitly reaffirmed as recently as this summer, have been torn up by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade. The ferry companies have two

options. They can merge, rationalise and run the tightest possible ship, at the lowest possible prices. Or they can merge, rationalise and push prices as high as they can and still stay competitive with the Tunnel — a 20 per cent discount, say. Guess which would be the most profitable?

Eurotunnel investors and banks, inching their way towards refinancing, now have no idea of what the competition to the Tunnel will look like in future. Should Mr Lang's bombshell, if it had to be dropped at all, not have waited until the end of those talks?

Just fancy that...

□ TODAY'S offering from the Department of Useless Statistics is a study that proves that managers benefit from being trained. This is significant, says James Paice, the largely unknown Education and Employment Minister, whose department commissioned the report, because "prior to the study, there was only anecdotal evidence and some survey data which linked the use of management competencies to improved business performance". In other words, before someone spent taxpayers' money on "proving" them, the findings could only be confirmed by common sense.

CAA review gives airports group a lift

BY CARL MORTSHED

SHARES of BAA rose yesterday as the airports group emerged largely unscathed in a review by its regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority. BAA retains its monopoly over airports in the South East of England and landing charges will be capped at 3 per cent below the retail price index, compared with the current formula of RPI-1.

The CAA has adopted fully the recommendations of the MMC in maintaining the monopoly structure and the price cap. Cliff Falck, director of economic regulation at the CAA, said: "It is not open to us or the MMC to say whether BAA should be broken up. We can only do that if BAA is operating against the public interest." He added: "Personally, I don't think it would be a good idea."

BAA welcomed the decision not to interfere with its ownership of Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted and described the RPI-3 formula as "very

challenging" but "workable". Sir John Egan, chief executive, said: "This MMC report confirms BAA is a quality company providing world-class airports at low cost." The new landing charges will apply from next April 1.

BAA shares rose 13p, to 491p, on news of the pricing formula and confirmation that a "single till" model for regulating the airport will continue. This allows BAA to subsidise the cost per passenger by making money from retailing and property rents. Landing charges currently account for about one third of BAA's income.

The CAA said it had adopted the MMC's assumption of a 7.5 per cent rate of return on BAA's asset value of £3.39 billion. The MMC has valued BAA's assets at March 31, 1991 and adjusted for inflation.

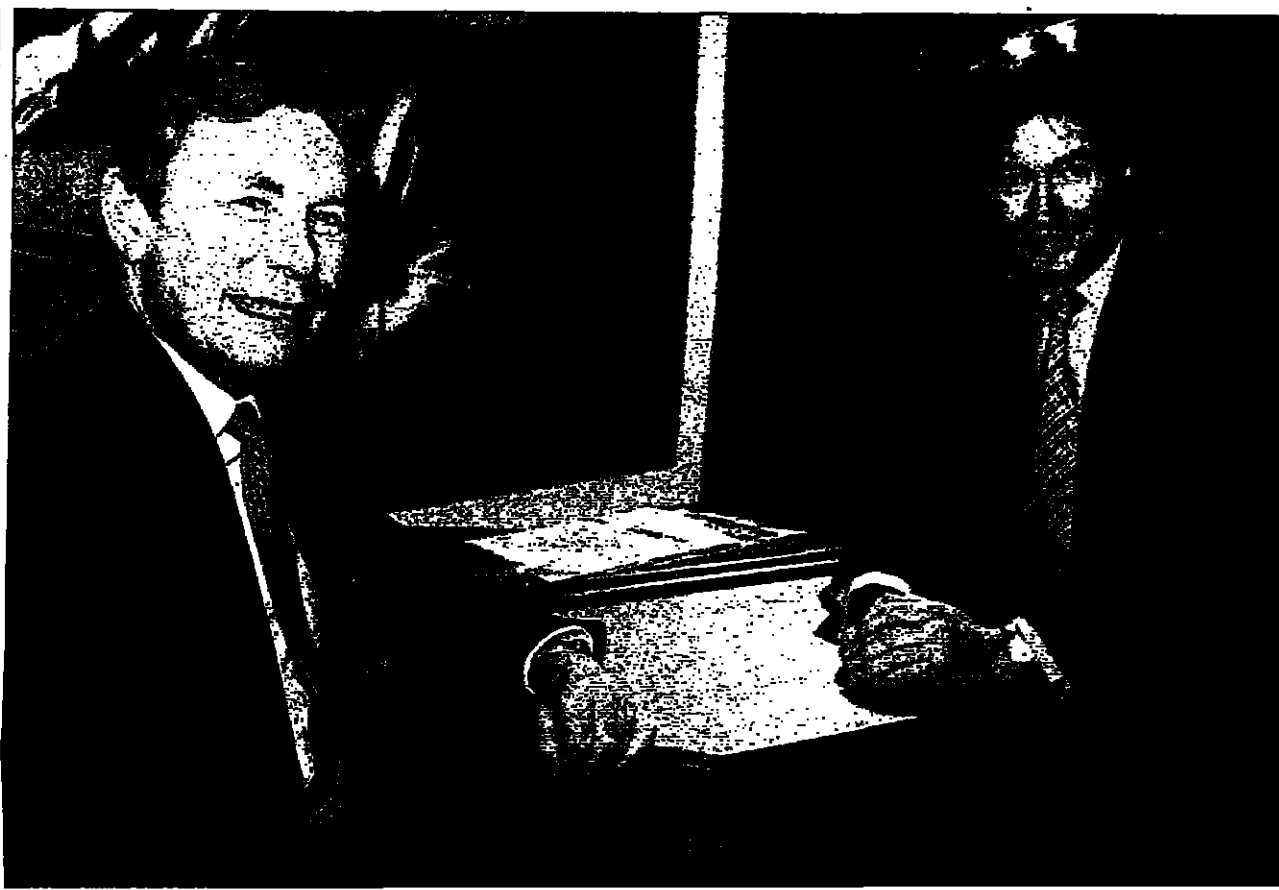
The regulator said the price formula took into consideration the five-year period 2002-2007, during which BAA hopes to open Terminal 5. Charges at Stansted will be allowed to rise by RPI+1 per cent; the MMC rejected accusations by Luton Airport that prices were artificially low at Stansted.

The CAA has recommended a contingency increase in charges of 15 per cent should BAA lose European duty and tax-free sales in 1999. The regulator estimated that BAA would lose a net £55 million if the concession was ended but BAA said yesterday the loss could total £70 million.

The CAA said it would consider alternatives to a smooth RPI-3 cap, including the option of RPI-3 for the first five years followed by RPI-13.5 per cent in 2002-2007. Another option would be RPI-20 for 1997-98, followed by RPI-1.

Sir John rejected the alternative proposals, suggesting they would lead to insecurity if the regulatory climate changed: "I cannot imagine a regulator willing to increase prices by 13.5 per cent."

Tempus, page 28



High-flyers: Sir Colin Marshall, left, BA's chairman, with Bob Ayling, chief executive, at yesterday's annual meeting

Turbulent BA meeting fails to shake Marshall

BY JON ASHWORTH

NEARLY 800 British Airways shareholders packed the Barbican Concert Hall in London yesterday for an annual meeting which touched on everything from "dirty tricks" to nuclear catastrophes. Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, sailed through the occasional turbulence with practised ease.

Lord King, BA's president, watched from the stalls, as speaker after speaker took to the microphone. What about shareholder discounts, they cried? And the environmental implications of Heathrow's Terminal 5? And the link with American Airlines?

Sir Colin remained unruffled. Terminal 5 would enable larger aircraft to carry more passengers without any increase in night flights. Further, it would replace the "delightful sewage farm", which at this time of the year is prone to giving off noxious fumes. A decision on Terminal 5 is expected by mid-1998.

Shareholders' discounts, he insisted, remained a good bet. Commending BA's performance over the year, Sir Colin said it was "business as usual" after the threat of industrial action had been averted.

Sir Colin said "misunderstandings" had fuelled fears

that the planned link-up between BA and American Airlines would reduce competition on the transatlantic routes. About 47 per cent of passengers flying to America from Heathrow were in transit from other flights and "had a real choice" over which airline to choose. He said BA risked losing up to half its custom if the link did not proceed.

One shareholder asked what would happen to shares held on Crest, the electronic settlement system, in the event of a magnetic pulse generated by a nuclear accident. Sir Colin said he was sure the Stock Exchange kept a backup. Another accused him of being too thick with BA's auditors, Ernst & Young, saying they belonged to the freemasons and Rotary, and played golf together. Sir Colin replied: "I don't belong to the freemasons. I don't belong to Rotary, and I don't play golf."

John Gorman, a former policeman engaged in a long-running dispute with BA, accused the airline of operating a dirty tricks department. Sir Colin said BA had never had a dirty tricks department and urged Mr Gorman to bring his case against BA to court.

Pru and Sun Life provide further signs of recovery

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's biggest name in personal pensions, and Sun Life, the fourth-largest life company, yesterday provided further evidence of recovery in the sector, announcing strong rises in single and regular premium products.

Prudential reported a 36 per cent rise in single premiums worldwide to £3.33 billion for the first six months of the year. UK sales rose by half to £1.58 billion. Sun Life, a subsidiary of Sun Life and Provincial

Holdings (SLPH), announced a rise in total new regular premiums of 14 per cent to £81 million. SLPH was last month floated off by UAP, the French insurer. Its total new business was up 19 per cent to £144 million. Money purchase pensions climbed 43 per cent, but new regular personal pensions business fell slightly.

The life industry has been suffering from a deep slump over the past two years. The public lost confidence in it after bad publicity over the pensions transfer scandal in which some people in occupational pension schemes were persuaded to switch into inappropriate personal pension plans.

Les Owen, Sun Life managing director, said: "After a couple of difficult years for our industry, with many companies reporting reduced new business, we are now seeing clear signs of an upturn."

Tempus, page 28

Biotech take-up concern

BY ERIC REGULY

SHARES of British Biotech fell again yesterday, increasing the likelihood that institutions that agreed to underwrite a £143 million rights issue will be left holding millions of pounds worth of stock.

The shares closed at £20.30 apiece, down 10p, in a falling market, against the £20.50 price of the one-for-eight rights issue. The shares were as high as £35 in May, when the company reported positive clinical results from Marimastat, one of its cancer treatments.

The closing time for the take-up of the rights issue is 3pm today. Analysts said there is some chance the share price will climb to the rights-issue price, but much depends on the performance of the London and New York stock markets.

James Noble, finance director of British Biotech, said: "We'll definitely get the £143 million. The only question is what percentage of the shareholders will take up the rights. It'd be disappointed if it's under 50 per cent."

Confidence in the biotechnology sector will no doubt fall if the share price does not recover today. The sector has been out of favour for several weeks, partly because of the flurry of new equity issues.

Allders loses finance chief

BY SARAH BAGNALL

ALLDERS, the department store group that recently sold its international duty-free operation for £160 million, has parted company with its finance director.

Tony Collyer, 40, is to become finance director at New Look, the discount fashion retailer. New Look, which pulled a stock market flotation in 1994, is said to be planning a listing within two years. The retailer was acquired last year by BZW Private Equity and Pruden-

tial Venture Managers. Mr Collyer joined Allders from Arthur Andersen in September 1989. The company floated in November 1993 at 170p, valuing the group at £175 million. Last week Allders completed the sale of its duty-free operation to Swissair. Harvey Lipsitz, Allders' chief executive, said the sale was instrumental in Mr Collyer's decision. "The scope of the role has changed as the nature of the business has changed," he said.



Collyer: opts for New Look

Hunting shares fall after loss warning

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A WARNING from Hunting that problems in its aviation division would mean a substantial first-half loss sent its shares tumbling 19 per cent to close at 143p.

Hunting, the defence, aviation and oil group, said that it would make a provision in its results for the six months to June 30 to cover cost over-runs on its contract to supply interior kits for De Havilland's Dash-8 turbo-prop aircraft.

The provision is expected to total at least £25 million and analysts believe that the com-

pary is set to declare a loss of £16 million for the six months, compared with a profit of £15 million in the same period a year earlier.

It is also writing off £10.5 million for its investment in the Jetstream 41 turbo-prop aircraft because of production cuts.

Ken Miller, chief executive, said that good trading in other parts of the group meant that results for the whole year should show a small pre-tax profit after exceptional items.

Tempus, page 28

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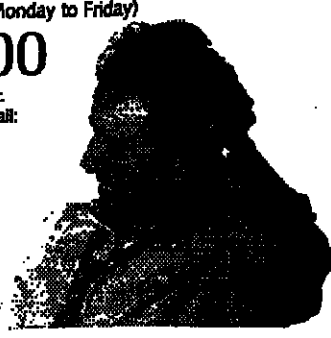
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STOCK MARKET

KAREN ZAGOR

Governor and Wall Street deal double blow to shares

THERE was little solace to be found in the City yesterday, where investors took a battering first from Wall Street and then from Eddie George, Bank of England Governor.

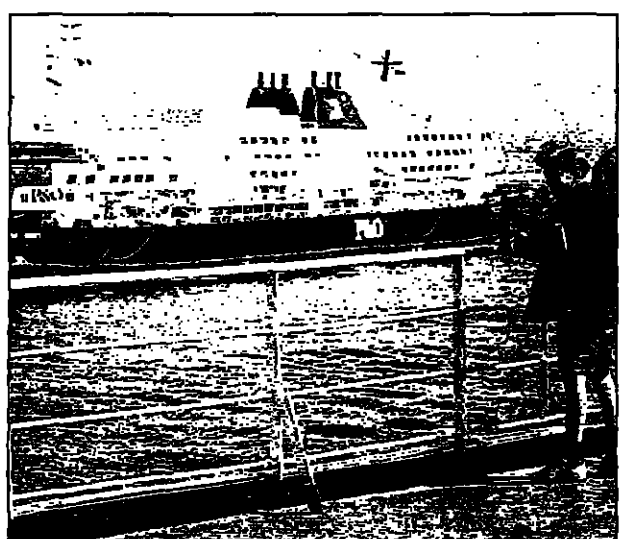
The overnight 161-point loss on Wall Street set the tone for the day. While analysts discussed whether the US decline was a permanent correction to an overvalued market or a mere hiccup, investors watched the FT-SE 100 tumble towards its lowest levels of the year with a 65 point drop almost immediately after opening.

Just when it seemed that things could get no worse, Eddie George said he was less than thrilled with the level of government borrowing in the three months to June and predicted that inflation would rise slightly in 1996 after falling to 2.5 per cent in 1997. Shortly after his comments hit the market, the FT-SE dropped 85.7 to a low of 3,612.6 at mid-session. According to one trader, the remarks might have had less impact in a stronger market. "But anything that is said in a declining market that isn't bullish has an impact."

The FT-SE 100 later regained its footing after a strong opening on Wall Street. But US shares failed to hold their gains and by the end of the day the FT-SE was down 66 points at 3,632.3, its lowest close of the year, as traders watched the Dow teter between gains of nearly 45 points and losses of more than 166. The second day of hefty losses, led by renewed selling in the technology sector, added to the picture that the US bull run is over.

The instability left the market uneasy about today's outlook. As one leading broker said: "If Wall Street is down tonight we'll be down again tomorrow." The US could cause more trouble for UK markets later in the week when Alan Greenspan, head of the Federal Reserve, testifies before Congress on Thursday.

Stocks with a sizeable presence on Wall Street were particularly stricken. Unilever lost 23p to close at £12.41, SmithKline Beecham fell 17p to 76p, Glaxo Wellcome, which also has a sizeable US presence, had less dramatic losses, edging 9p lower to 86p as the company continued to take strength from reports that it is set to benefit from huge demand for Aids drugs in the wake of last week's



P&O shares found it plain sailing in a turbulent market

Vancouver Aids conference.

Elsewhere in the pharmaceutical sector, the former stock market darling British Biotech, which traded as high as £35 in May, managed to shake off its worst losses of the day. At mid-session yesterday, the ordinary shares were quoted at £20.10p, but by the close of trade they had edged back to £20.30p, 10p lower

than their previous day's close and 20p below the rights price of £20.50. The £143 million rights issue closes today.

Other unpopular biotechnology issues included Celtech, down 36p to 509p, and Chiroscience, off 18p at 319p.

Orange lost 7.5p to £82.5p as the market registered its lack of enthusiasm for cellular telephone companies. Vodafone also lost ground, tum-

bling 10p to 218.5p.

British Energy, which rallied private investors on Monday by becoming the first privatisation to open at a discount on the first day of dealings since BP 1, continued to fall. The shares, offered at 100p in their partly paid form, lost 3p to end at 91p.

The disappointing performance across the market may

and held its gains, climbing 15p to 493p on news that the Civil Aviation Authority, its regulator, had agreed to an unexpectedly generous pricing formula. The announcement coincided with a ruling from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that BAA would not have to break up its London airports.

P&O was another success story, rising 8p to 500p after a decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to lift restrictions on alliances between cross-Channel ferry operators, opening the door for cost saving co-operation between P&O and Stena.

Stena Life also bucked the trend, adding 2p to 221p on the back of strong new business figures. But the Prudential was unable to move higher, in spite of reporting soaring sales. The shares ended at 413p, down 2p.

Railtrack's prospects of entering the FT-SE 100 declined a little when its shares edged 3.5p lower to 209p.

Hunting, the defence and aviation company, was one of the biggest losers of the day. The shares moved lower after the company said it would take a substantial hit to earnings, reflecting a provision and write-off. By the close of trading they were quoted at 143p, a drop of 34p.

Speculation that United News & Media is planning to bid for Blenheim sent shares in United News & Media 7p lower to 629p.

GILT-EDGED: In keeping with the general, negative tenor of the market, gilt lost ground. The biggest blow was struck by unexpectedly high PSBR numbers for June. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt tumbled to £105 1/2 before regaining its equilibrium to end five ticks lower at £106 1/2. Volume was quite high, with 73,000 contracts completed. The Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost 1/4 to 197 1/2 while at the shorter end, the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 retreated two ticks to 103 1/2.

The afternoon recovery was spurred by Germany, where encouraging comments on interest rates by Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, prompted a German bond market rally.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average extended its losses in early trading. At midday, the index was down 36.62 points at 5,312.89.

Closing Prices Page 31

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

ICE-LOX (London & 0.00p)

CRUDE OIL (Brent FOB)

WHEAT (Dutch 1000)

BARLEY (Dutch 1000)

ROBUSTA COFFEE (IB)

WHITE SUGAR (IB)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average London prices at representative markets on July 16

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 5312.89 (-36.62)

S&P Composite 423.44 (-7.34)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 21408.35 (-347.07)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 10627.98 (-172.19)

Amsterdam:

Euro Index 528.27 (-10.99)

Sydney:

AO 2100.60 (-46.50)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2464.79 (-40.74)

Singapore:

Strait Times 2179.45 (-13.39)

Brussels:

General 9182.83 (-139.23)

Paris:

CAC-40 1989.51 (-40.00)

Zurich:

SKA Gen 776.80 (-10.78)

London:

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TEMPUS

Sauce for the goose

BAA's lukewarm acceptance of the new pricing formula for landing charges is a bit like the recipient of the golden goose muttering about the cost of feeding the bird. There can be no doubt that BAA has sailed through this regulatory review. Indeed, so pleased is BAA with the regulator's bland conclusions and recommendations that there ought to be a slight reddening of the cheeks among the worthies at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Civil Aviation Authority. After all, what regulator wants it known that the subject of its critical gaze applauds its regulatory report in such terms: "This report is one we can be proud of."

The RPI-X formula is the best that BAA could hope for. The CAA's curious decision to put forward different options - RPI-X for five years followed by RPI+13.5 per cent - seems

bizarre, a sop to those who yearn for a more stringent regime. However, it is unrealistic to expect the company to budget on a big surge in charges at the end of a ten-year period. If the CAA wants to shift income into later years, it could adopt a less skewed formula.

The real disappointment is the failure by the CAA to deal with the issue of competition. It is too late for BAA to be broken up, but there are pressing needs to ensure that this expanding but cosseted industry is exposed to cold air at every opportunity. BAA has squeezed its tenants in the past and there is no reason why airport rents should not be subject to a price cap. Even more regrettable is the failure to consider an alternative owner for Terminal 5. There is a curious complacency about the CAA's attitude: it is a relationship that looks altogether too cosy.

Hunting

WHEN Hunting diversified the company into oil and aviation, its hope was that the two new divisions would prevent the company depending too heavily on its traditional defence markets. Oil has performed well, as has defence - boosted by the contract to run the government's Atomic Weapons Establishment - but aviation has flapped about like a wounded bird seeking shelter from a predator.

Last year the company had to write off £2 million owed to it by Fokker, the collapsed Dutch company. It is now going to write off £10.5 million for its investment in the Jetstream 41 turboprop. Even worse, it is having to make a provision of at least £25

Renewed Eighties euphoria is gripping London and New York

City warriors strut out once again

Jon Ashworth
says the picture
is horribly
reminiscent
of the days of
Big Bang

What fun the Eighties were. The archetypal braces-clad City gent cruised the streets in his red Porsche, barking commands down his mobile phone — a rare and trendy accessory in those days — and planning his next killing on a rampant stock market. Behind the wheel was that fiercest of City warriors: the female bond trader. Sharp-tongued and high-heeled, she worked every hour of the day, carving a swathe through dealing rooms, then burning it off in the gym in a paroxysm of deal-inspired energy. Armed with Filofax and electronic personal organiser, they made an unstoppable combination.

Renewed Eighties euphoria has been much in evidence, from a soaring stock market and huge new issue premiums to the £1 million-plus packages circulating once more. Analysts are being poached en masse, fuelling bigger and bigger payments.

There are differences, of course — the Porsche is more likely to be a personalised TVR costing up to £45,000, or a Harley Davidson — but an enduring Eighties feel remains. The number of City workers sunning themselves yesterday lunchtime while screens turned a brighter shade of red was spot on itself.

The picture is horribly reminiscent of the days when Big Bang in 1986 swept the City off the Stock Exchange floor and upstairs, into a faster, electronic age. Then, excess was measured in the number of magnificence of Veuve Clicquot one could buy in an evening overlooking the Broadgate Circle, or how many rounds of karaoke one could handle before the Japanese sapphire took its toll.

Shades off the old days remain, with Balls Brothers offering a Methuselah of Louis Roederer to customers correctly predicting the value of the dollar against the pound as at the end of July. Corney & Barrow, ever attuned to the needs of its City clients, reports thriving trade at its outlet at Canary Wharf, which comes fitted with dealing screens and



Futures traders in London yesterday as billions were wiped off the stock market

direct-dial phones. Takeovers and mergers have transformed City securities houses and sent headhunters scrambling for business. Jonathan Baines, senior consultant to Baines Gwinner, has placed four or five City specialists on packages of more than £1 million so far this year. Last year, he was lucky to place one.

Mr Baines said: "I don't know a firm that is not having a record year. Some have made as much in the first six months as in the whole of last year — and that was an improvement on the year before."

He added: "We've got ourselves back into two-year or three-year guarantees at very, very high levels. Some salaries are up by 100 or 150 per cent on two years ago, and it's easy to say this cannot be sustained, it's all going to end in tears."

The issue is heightened by comparisons across the Atlantic, where pay packages are running at 50 to 60 per cent higher. Mr Baines said: "You're talking double-figure millions over there. Here, it's single-figure millions."

Rudi Mueller, chairman of UBS, has criticised the growing trend towards locking in high-fliers on guaranteed bonuses, rather than linking pay to performance. Brian Winterlood, of

Winterlood Securities, said: "Of course, all the old signs are here, analysts getting more money, all stoking the fire, but the media's been on this hack for so long: Wall Street's got to crash. It makes the market all the more stronger if you have a correction."

He said an "overhyped" AIM market had been driven at the expense of the after-

market, with an emphasis on getting the issue away and raking in the fees. Huge premiums on new issues generally left fund managers nervous. Shares in Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge store, soared 25 per cent in the first day's trading, after institutions oversubscribed

the issue at least 12 times. One need only look at the high-flying biotechnology sector, which has come crashing to earth in the past few weeks. British Biotech, the darling of the sector, closed yesterday at £20.30 per share, well off its peak of £35 a share in May, and 20p below today's rights issue price of £20.50.

The Eighties euphoria has split into the leisure market, with traders and brokers splashing out on ever-exotic holidays. On the property front, City gent's have returned with renewed zeal. Lorna Vestey, partner in Knight Frank, said the upturn had been particularly noticeable in the past six months, with brokers in their twenties and thirties spending between £800,000 and £1.5 million. "Docklands is very much up and coming with the twenty-somethings. As they get married, they are tending to drift to Kensington and Chelsea, and Fulham to a lesser extent."

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Excess on Wall Street in new 'live now' mood

Richard
Thomson asks
if it is time
for a last
cigar before
the fun ends

When you see 22-year-old investment bankers in red braces puffing on large Havana cigars with expressions that say "I've just received a bonus that's bigger than you can imagine", it's time to start worrying about the stock market.

New York is in the grip of a cigar craze which, though not as bad as some of the worst 1980s excesses, carries obvious overtones of over-indulgence.

Taken with other reliable indicators, the message is disturbing. We have been here before, and the last time it ended in a crash. A *fin de siècle* decadence has settled over the stock market where the shares of any no-hope company have been rising effortlessly to absurd prices. The ominously familiar signs of silliness that usually appear in a market reaching its speculative peak are growing by the day.

Since much of New York depends on Wall Street's profits, the euphoria that has gripped the stock market for the past year is reflected on the streets of Manhattan. Take, for example, the Stretch Limo Index — the number of limousines you can count in a 24-hour period — which has been rising, with alarming speed over the past 12 months.

Or look at the Manhattan property market, where rents have surpassed the ridiculous high levels hit in the late 1980s and purchase prices are said to be going through the roof. Donald Trump, the property developer who embodied the extravagance of the Eighties, has signalled his return from his brush with bankruptcy by buying a Boeing 727 to get around in.

Consumer spending has been flat generally, but luxury retailers such as Gucci and a host of chic designers can hardly keep up with the demand for their expensive goods from consumers enjoying their stock market profits.

Much the same live-for-the-day attitude is visible on the stock market itself. A glut of new share issues, breaking all previous records, is keeping eager investors supplied with



Traders at work in New York as the Dow neared its 161-point fall on Monday

stocks that in normal times could probably not have been sold. For example, Saks Fifth Avenue, which failed to issue shares once before and has produced losses for the past five years, not only successfully sold its stock recently but saw it race up from \$25 to \$34 within days. The shares of a host of computer-related companies that have slim prospects of ever making profits have also soared.

Even Planet Hollywood, the restaurant chain, issued shares amid criticism about its fundamental value. But investors rushed in because they knew everyone else would be buying and the shares nearly doubled in value in the first few days.

The share frenzy has been driven by small investors pouring money into mutual funds — the US equivalent of unit trusts. In the first six months of this year, a record \$139.5 billion — more than for the whole of last year — has come into mutual funds whose managers can hardly invest fast enough. But since small investors are usually the last to benefit from a price rise before the market turns, their enthusiasm is perhaps ominous.

The euphoria, however, has been a bonanza for Wall Street, where this month the number

of people employed in the financial sector will pass the previous record set in the month before the October 1987 crash.

The 40 per cent profit surge announced by JP Morgan for its second quarter was typical of the industry's buoyancy. Meanwhile, the 23-year-old investment bankers — and everyone else — really have

to work harder to explain why investors should not worry that the normal measures of share value are showing that the market is overpriced.

The ratio of prices to company earnings is around 20 per cent above its historic average, while dividend yields are about the lowest they have ever been. The brokers say that old measures no longer apply. Increasingly, however, the mood is turning against them.

Michael Metz, equity strategist at Oppenheim, the fund management group, says: "The bull market is over. The bounce back from last Friday's 100-point fall on the Dow Jones index is the weakest we've seen all year. All the factors that supported the market have disappeared. There is a short-term inflation problem. Interest rates are going up and the outlook for company earnings is not good."

Most ominous of all is that in spite of the money pouring into mutual funds, the market has moved up about only seven per cent. Few analysts believe the market is heading for a 1987 style crash, but a gradual decline for the rest of 1996 and 1997 is more likely. Time, perhaps, for a last cigar and a ride in the stretch limo before the fun ends.

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Losses continue

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52	52	AB InBev	10.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
13	13	Beck's	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Carlsberg	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Heineken	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Karlsberg	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Orkla	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Reckitt Benckiser	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Stellingsma	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Van Melle	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0
17	17	Wolff	1.10	0.00	0.0	18.0

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	ABN-AMRO	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Alm Invest	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of America	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of Norway	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of Sweden	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of the Netherlands	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of the South Sea	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of the West	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of the World	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Bank of the East	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Carlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Heineken	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Karlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Carlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Heineken	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Karlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Carlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Carlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Karlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Carlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Karlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Heineken	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Karlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Heineken	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Karlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

ENGINEERING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Carlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Carlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Heineken	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

Losses continue

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Stellingsma	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Van Melle	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Wolff	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
30.00	30.00	AB InBev	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Beck's	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
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30.00	30.00	Heineken	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Karlsberg	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Orkla	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.0
30.00	30.00	Reckitt Benckiser	30.00	0.00	0.0	18.



MUSIC 1

Nights in the Albert Hall: a new broom at the Proms offers a new approach to new music



MUSIC 2

... while that old provocateur, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, brings a song to the Almeida

THE TIMES ARTS



OFFER

Special prices for *Riverdance* and other top shows: see our Theatre Club panel



TOMORROW

Uma Thurman's latest movie, and all the other new releases: read Geoff Brown's verdict

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

SONG is enjoying a good showing at this year's Almeida Opera. On Sunday, Mary Wiegold's *Songbook*, that unbound collection of, well, not exactly commissions but gentle persuasions, presented a trilogy of new and newish works for voice and the dark, eloquent combination of clarinet, viola, cello and double-bass which is the Composers Ensemble.

There were 11 first performances and nine London premieres. Classics of the repertoire strode between them: Colin Matthews's powerful, Britten-esque *Cantata on the death of Antony*, sung by mezzo-soprano Pamela Helen Stephen; Nicholas Maw's delicately complementary *The Head of Orpheus*; and Harrison Birtwistle's gentle, disturbing Paul Celan setting, *White and Light*, both sung by Wiegold herself.

Of the newest of the new works, I found two songs by Edward Cowie and Simon Limbrick particularly irresistible. *Rainbow Heterophony* sent splinters of sound flying from soprano and two

Voices in the dark

Songbook Almeida

clarinets, the voice wordless but forming sounds as swiftly and elusively as light through a prism, and the blown fragments growing almost imperceptibly in depth of colour and duration until the trio was a babble with activity. Limbrick's *Silver Threads* was a duet for clarinet, starting in the vein of old Norse *visgungur*, with two voices moving rhythmically a fifth apart, then chasing each other in repeated ascending scales, playing fleet shadow games, and increasing in strength and complexity.

Solace was on offer in Eva

Noer Kondrup's affecting *Lullaby*, syllabic yet supple of verbal inflection, and circled by clarinet, bass clarinet and the three lower strings; and in Hilary Tann's witty, chatty R.S. Thomas setting, *Mother and Son*. This song revealed what too many others did not: a truly imaginative understanding of both the human voice and the instruments.

So, it goes without saying, did Alexander Goehr in his *Three Songs* to texts by Sir James Frazer from Ovid's *Fasts*. These tiny, fanciful images moved from surreal word and note-play to a sunset mirage of clarinet and viola to a leaping morning star reflected in the ocean. Their beauty was the more seductive for being so fugitive, as was John Woodrich's deft and polished *Elvis Costello* setting, *Malicious Observer*, a savagely simple parable of political innocence and experience. It drew a more potent silence from the audience than anything else in the evening.

HILARY FINCH

Get your ears bent back

WHAT is that tune trying to escape from Richard Causton's *Non mi compo male*? Actually, the clue is in the title but if you translate it as "I am not behaving badly" — which in the print English setting of the Pitville Pump Room, you are likely to do — you won't get it until *Ain't Misbehavin'* emerges intact at the end.

Such allusive wit and seductive melody were rare in Rolf Hind and Nicolas Hodges's recital of mainly recent music for one or two pianos at the Cheltenham Festival. The more likely approach was an effort to pin the ear to the skull, as Anders Brodsgaard does most successfully in the first movement of his generally compelling *Attaca*. *Requiem*, *Joker*, and as Michael

Hind/Hodges
Leopold Trio
Cheltenham Festival

Finnissy does, rather disappointingly, after so much of more subtle interest, in his *Wild Flowers*. But it is better to bend the ear in one way or another than to leave it untouched, which was the negative effect of some of the less sophisticated pieces from the piano workshop session of the Society for the Promotion of New Music in Cheltenham the day before.

The morning concert in the Pitville Pump Room was given by the Leopold String Trio in partnership from time to time with Thomas Adès.

Though not long out of the Royal Academy of Music, the trio is an accomplished ensemble secure enough and flexible enough to take risks. They exchanged ideas most imaginatively with Adès in Mozart's Piano Quartet in G minor, and they did not shrink from giving the first British performance of music as cryptic and as demanding as is contained in György Kurtág's *Signs, Games and Messages*.

The new score is a more or less coherent sequence of 17 miniatures (for one or more of violin, viola and cello), of less than two minutes' average duration. A few of them escaped clarification; others were presented in almost embarrassing intimacy.

GERALD LARNER

Nicholas Kenyon gives Richard Morrison a tour of the premieres in his first year as Proms director

It was a scandal, a triumph, a disgrace, a cheeky piece of provocation. All of that was said about Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Panic* when this short but hugely uncompromising creation was premiered on the Last Night of last year's Proms — and, more to the point, televised live at peak viewing time on Saturday-night BBC1.

From Anthea Turner to this? It was a bridge too far for many viewers, and Sir John Drummond's era as Proms director ended in a barrage of protest from middle England. Which was perhaps exactly what Drummond — another hugely uncompromising creation — intended.

His successor as Proms masterchef, Nicholas Kenyon, has already fielded his fair share of outrage from the Disgusteds of Tunbridge Wells, because his day-job is running Radio 3 (or "ruining Radio 3", if you subscribe to the Gerald Kaufman view). So, as Kenyon prepares to launch his first Proms season on Friday, does he have a view on the *Panic* Affair? Was it a welcome shock to BBC1 viewers, or a mega-decibel public relations disaster?

"It was clearly not a welcome shock to BBC1 viewers," he concedes. "But it was the absolutely logical conclusion of everything that John Drummond had tried to do for new music and for Proms programming in general. After all, the BBC was one of the first organisations to commission Birtwistle, and he's written some of his greatest works for the BBC. So it was entirely



Nicholas Kenyon: "These days there are not so many causes to be fought. It's more a question of going for quality"

logical that he should be given a commission for the Last Night. And the fact that the piece has had several more performances since then is a complete vindication."

Despite the verbal war that *Panic* triggered in the press? "The only thing the press usually wants is a good fight. So any lobby group like the Hecklers — which had no intellectual substance whatsoever — makes the front pages."

So there. Nevertheless, Kenyon's own choice of "shocking new music" for his first Last Night is, significantly, neither very shocking nor particularly new: a *Concerto in Pieces*, by the Danish composer Poul Ruders, which reworks Purcell (in quirky homage to Britten's *Young Person's Guide*) and has already been performed successfully.

If the *Panic* Episode revealed anything, apart from the gulf between cognoscenti and general public, then it is that no other concert series can match the exposure given to a composer commissioned by the Proms. Kenyon admits that he would not risk as much in a Proms commission as in other circumstances, and this year's premieres do seem more user-friendly. Perhaps that is because several of them, like Ruders's piece, make self-conscious reference to earlier music.

"Almost all composers now make use of past musical

memories," Kenyon says. "That's one of the most interesting things about new music as we approach the millennium. I think it's a richness, rather than a restriction."

Thus Detlev Glanert's *Symphony No 3* will be a "symphony about old symphonies"; while Dominic Muldowney's new Trombone Concerto (to be premiered next Monday) is based on the theme-tune of *Hancock's Half-Hour*. That, says the composer, is because the trombone apparently "carries the baggage of being both comic and tragic". Prepare to roll in the aisles, then.

General, though, of Kenyon's general philosophy? Will he be putting the Proms at the cutting-edge of the avant-garde, as William Glock did in the Sixties — provoking professional hatreds that stretch to this day, and mounting premieres that occasionally produced minor riots?

"Well, small riots, not many hurt," Kenyon observes. "Glock's action was justifiable because at that point there was so much ground to be made up. If I had been in his shoes in 1960 I would have done the same. These days there are not

so many causes to be fought. It's more a question of going for quality and not acquiescing in the feeling that new music will scare audiences away. Proms audiences are genuinely the most open-minded in the world."

So will Kenyon try to appease the many special-interest groups that come banging on the Proms' door?

"No. If you start trying to appease people you end up in the middle of a world war. There are bound to be omissions. I have nothing against hard-line minimalism, although, as it happens, there isn't any of that. That's something I slightly regret. I've certainly nothing against women composers, and I think it's a mistake that there aren't any in this year's Proms."

Kenyon believes, along with most music critics, that Britain currently has more good composers than any other country. If that is true, Radio 3 must be given some of the credit. It will spend £150,000 this year on commissions: rehearsal and performance costs come on top of that. But how much longer will John Birt's New Model BBC go on funding Radio 3's promotion of contemporary

music? Kenyon is optimistic — but that's his job.

"Look at the complete absence of interest in new music displayed by a certain commercial broadcaster," he says. (He means Classic FM.) "It's perfectly reasonable behaviour for them. But equally, there is a commitment at the BBC to do the things that make us different. After all, what do you have a licence fee for, except to invest in the future?"

Finally, the big question. Will all of this year's Proms premieres happen? Last year there were disappointments. "Obviously John Drummond took a big risk for the centenary by commissioning some major international figures, and perhaps not every piece was delivered in the form it was meant to be," Kenyon concedes. "But this year they have all finished. I think."

Kenyon's composers would certainly have to dawdle to Olympic standards if they were to beat the record for non-delivery held by the eminent Hungarian composer György Ligeti. "Long before my time the BBC commissioned him to write an opera for English National Opera," Kenyon says. "Who knows? It might yet come to pass."

Don't book yet.

● The BBC Proms season begins on Friday in the Albert Hall (8.15-8.50 p.m.), with live broadcasts each evening on Radio 3.

The absence of women composers from the Proms is a mistake

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Lessons in fun

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

St Martin's Lane has been trodden by great actors from Charlie Chaplin to Al Pacino, and it is here that young club members will get the chance to improve their Shakespearean technique in a series of holiday workshops. Beginning at 10am, the day will be filled with explorations of language, text and performance techniques, with a fully staged production in the afternoon. The first three workshops (on July 19 and 26, as well as August 2) will explore *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the final three (August 9, 16 and 23) will look at *Macbeth*. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for £14 (normally £17.50). The day will end at about 4pm. To book, telephone 0171-836 9834, quoting your membership number.

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 3NL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

OTHER SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON
Apollo, Hammersmith
July 29-Aug 1
● CLUB members can see *Riverdance*, the Irish stepdance show that became an international phenomenon, and enjoy a three-course buffet meal for £36 (best seat tickets normally £28.50 alone). Tel 0171-416 6022

Riverside Studios, Hammersmith
July 17-20, 24-27
● THE Channel 4 Sitcom Festival gives writers the chance to work with experienced actors, directors and script editors and try out their ideas in front of an audience. Three half-hour plays are staged each week, and club members can be there for £5 (normally £7.50). Tel 0181-741 2255

DUNDEE
Dundee Rep
Aug 13-31
● THE first Edinburgh Festival venue outside Scotland's capital, Dundee Rep has put together another exciting line-up of European performers. The festival opens (Aug 13-17) with the Belarus State Theatre's production of *Dodge*, based on the last play by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. From Aug 20 to 24, Compagnie Yvette Brzisk and the Katona Jozsef

Theatre of Budapest perform *Two Portraits* and *The Miraculous Mandarin*. The final week (Aug 27-31) sees a production by the Oskars Korsunovas Company of Lithuania of *Hello Songa New Year*, a combination of parody, comedy, farce and comic opera. See all three shows for £9 (normally £15). Tel 01382 223530

Mermaid Theatre
July 25-27
● TICKETS £5 (normally £8) for *Hell and Other Tales*, by Steven Berkoff. Tel 0171-236 2211

WHITLEY BAY Playhouse
July 30-Aug 3
● TICKETS £5.50 (normally £7.50) for *More Adventures of Noddy*. Tel 0191-252 3515

PAIGNTON Festival Theatre
July 17-Sept 6
● TICKETS £5 (normally £10) for any Friday or Saturday night performance of *Joe Fantasia*. Tel 01803 558641

WORTHING Connaught Theatre
Aug 6-10
● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £5.50 to £8.50) for Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. Tel 01903 235333

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■ OPERA 1
Superb music
but the staging
has problems:
Glyndebourne
opens its
first *Lulu*

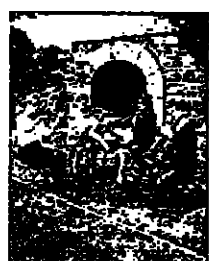


■ OPERA 2
The Gertrude Stein
and Virgil
Thomson
*Four Saints
in Three Acts*
comes to London

THE TIMES ARTS



■ OPERA 3
... and Kent
Nagano conducts
Berlioz's massive
*Damnation of
Faust* in
the Barbican



■ YOUNG ARTS
Sweet sounds
on Guernsey:
a bright new
string quartet
emerges from the
Ladies' College

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on Glyndebourne's new staging of Berg's *Lulu*; plus Virgil Thomson and Berlioz in London

Keep your ears open and your eyes shut

Few operatic events have been awaited as eagerly as Glyndebourne's first staging of *Lulu*, one of this dying century's great and defining masterpieces, and one unseen in the UK for nearly a decade (just as eagerly awaited a production by English National Opera had to be cancelled in the wake of poor box-office response to its bold "20-Plus" season in 1990).

The buzz from Sussex has been audible since the project was first announced two years ago, but — hard and charitably as one may search for mealy-mouthed excuses along the lines of "minor miscalculations" or "easily adjustable problems" — the only sound on Monday was that unmistakable "phurr-r-r-r-lump" of an almighty flop.

Visually and dramatically, that is; musically the evening is hugely rewarding. Times change: when *Lulu* (1935) was first performed in this country by guest companies in the 1960s, it was still "difficult", still "nasty modern music". The quality of Glyndebourne's musical preparation has been legendary for 60 years, and Andrew Davis, the London Philharmonic and an exceptionally well chosen cast have plainly worked their socks off to bring out the beauties and strengths of Berg's score.

The new theatre might have been designed to accommodate a tricky 20th-century piece such as this: you can hear everything, the structure, the way the score is put together — and why — without any loss of overall warmth or silky sensuousness (Berg was not Viennese for nothing). The melodies — and they are melodies to all ears save those expecting every tune to sound like *Land of Hope and Glory* — ravish the ear. Davis gives the black humour full rein (I

hadn't before noticed a shy Strauss parody when the pimp sings about placing girls from quite the best families in brothels) and ensures that you can hear and relish the off-stage music, whether for dance band or mock-barrel organ. The playing is wonderfully well balanced, always dramatically alive.

Just as impressive is the preparation of the singers: what they have to do never sounds "difficult", which of course it is, hideously. Christine Schäfer (*Lulu*) does not have a huge voice, but in a house this size and with so considerate a conductor it does not matter: her singing is pure, unstrained, as expressively phrased as if she were in Mozart. The same is true of Kathryn Harries as Countess Geschwitz, and, although no Alva can ever sound entirely unstrained, David Kuebler, such fine artists as Patricia Bardon, Neil Jenkins and Jonathan Veira, sharing many small roles between them, sound as though they have been singing Berg all their lives.

The main cause of reactions surpassing bemusement and approaching crossness at Graham Vick's production is the way so promising a cast is left dangling in the wind. At what stage — the eternal question with great operatic disasters — could it have been seen that something might be going ever so slightly awry? At first sight of Paul Brown's permanent set, perhaps. This is a curved wall in Glyndebourne red brick with Glyndebourne pine doors. In case anyone misses the oh-so-subtle point that the action is supposed to be "us", the Animal Trainer flashes a mirror at us in the Prologue. That's a fairly good one-off joke, but not one to justify a set that is frankly inadequate to suggest loca-

‘It's all
just flat and
anonymous;
not funny, not
horrificing, not
anything’



"Her singing is as expressively phrased as if she were in Mozart": Christine Schäfer as *Lulu*

tions as various as Dr Schön's *haut-bourgeois* mansion and the squalor of Jack the Ripper's Whitechapel.

The modern-dress costumes are not "us". Dr Schön is dressed as TV's Arthur Daley, an odd visual reference for a newspaper tycoon. *Lulu* is saddled with a series of near-topless, sideless and bottomless tart's frocks of a vulgarity familiar to those attending ritzy West End discos but seldom seen in Sussex. Other costumes are oddly anonymous; few help define character, save for the wino outfit and tam-o'-shanter for

Schigolch (Norman Bailey); some ill-define it, like the naïf outfits for the Athlete, and sadly the coarseness seeps over into Donald Maxwell's staging, just as Wolfgang Schöne sounds a little more like Arthur Daley than, say, Conrad Black.

The big problem with Vick's production, though, is his failure to devise a dramatic language in which the epic expressionist action can naturally unfold. It's all flat and anonymous; not funny, not horrificing, not anything. Why should this particular Dr Schön go mad? Who is this

Lulu? Poor Schäfer, who has the *physique du rôle* in spades, is a blank canvas awaiting the artist. Neither a child, a victim, nor a predator. No humour, no mischief, matter-of-fact young woman. And she could be outstanding. From this bland, characterless background Schigolch salvages something of Berg's vision, Schöne manages one chilling smile as Jack the Ripper, and Jenkins, Bardon and Veira have their moments. But, apart from Davis, this is a profoundly dispiriting evening.

Fun of a surreal kind

Four Saints in
Three Acts
Spitalfields Market
Opera

WHEN I interviewed Virgil Thomson shortly before that grand old man of American letters and notes died, I asked if he had any advice for a cub critic. "Just answer the question 'what was it like?'," he said. So here goes...

Gavin Henderson, principal of Trinity College of Music, also took some good advice. Thomson urged that he should one day stage Thomson's opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* and "make it come out right". He did, and it has. Trinity's production (by Leah Hausman) for the City of London Festival is musically sure-footed, and captures that fugitive and irresistibly tender wit which pervades Thomson's collaboration with Gertrude Stein.

It is a pity that the barn-like acoustics of Spitalfields Market Opera (though Thomson, I suspect, would have enjoyed its ambience, among baseball courts, cafe and merry-go-rounds) made the audience strain to catch the words.

Stein said she wrote "to tell what could be told if one did not tell anything". Thomson

responded to her abstract and surreal verbal montage with the tunes and harmonies of chant, psalmody and children's songs. "If a text is set correctly for the sound of it," he said, "the meaning will take care of itself."

And it does. *Four Saints* creates the same sensation that exists when following a play in an unknown language, yet understanding every word.

A small chorus of saints tell us of the lives of the St Theresas (Magnea, Tomasdotir, John Arnold), St Ignatius (Sjaak van der Bent), St Settlement (Monika Stache) and St Chavez (James Geer) in the form of a Sunday-school entertainment. And Thomson's themes of peace between the sexes, community of faith and the production of miracles are, sure enough, conjured out of

this simply but tellingly choreographed production, conducted with equal eloquence by Gregory Rose.

The expression and gestures of gleeful seriousness on the faces of the white-clad chorus counteract nicely the idiosyncrasies of individual saints. The Compere, Devon Harrison, and Commere, Emily Sheard, keep them all in order. For Act II they picnic, play ring o' roses and race with egg and spoon. A little silver house descends ("How many doors? How many floors?"); then obsessive mathematics gives way to one of Thomson's wonderful big tunes, trombone-led, as the scene changes.

Act III (not the last one, despite the title) contains St Ignatius's little show-stopper, *Pigeons on the grass alas*, describing his vision of the Holy Spirit — to which the only possible reply can be "He asked for a distant magpie/As if that made a difference". A dance, a drum-roll and all the saints from their labours rest.

HILARY FINCH

Good tunes from the devil

LSO/Nagano
Barbican

BERLIOZ read Goethe's *Faust* as a young man and, in the height of inspiration, dashed off eight musical scenes and sent them to its author. No response came, and Berlioz withdrew the work from publication. However, the depth of *Faust*'s impact on the composer is apparent in every bar of the score that eventually evolved 15 years later: each episode, each image is portrayed with startling, at times almost alarming, clarity. In *The Damnation of Faust* Berlioz's imagination was charged as if with a mission: the result is one of the symphonic masterpieces of the Romantic era.

The Damnation of Faust cannot be done on a small scale and this is one reason why it is performed only rarely. The joint forces of the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus fitted somewhat snugly into the Barbican, and at times the performance seemed boxed in, as if the hall could barely contain the brilliance of Berlioz's scoring, or the visionary quality of a work conceived before its time.

In addition to the restrictions of the acoustics, it must also be said that Kent Nagano's interpretation had its limitations. His conducting is a model of clarity, and the work hung together well enough. But from time to time his direction felt more perfunctory than inspiring, as in

the passage where Faust hears the Easter hymn and is turned from suicide, or the final apotheosis of Marguerite. The faster-moving, showier numbers were more successful.

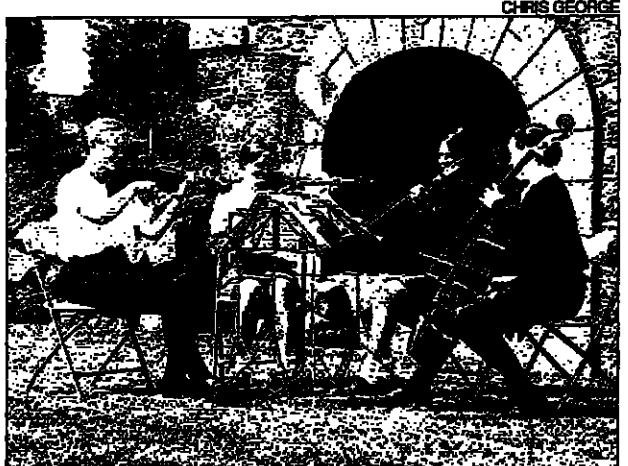
Nagano and the LSO were joined by a classy line-up of soloists. Olga Borodina (replacing Susan Graham at short notice) sang Marguerite's soliloquies perfectly, conveying her hopes and fears with complete vocal assurance and compelling musical insight. Equally striking was the Italian tenor Giuseppe Sabbatini as Faust.

In *The Damnation of Faust* the devil may not have all the good tunes but he certainly has many of the most dramatic moments. If the young baritone Natale De Carolis did not always bring the necessary characterisation to the role of Mephistopheles, there is no doubting the quality of his voice. The LSO Chorus sang with gusto and reverence as required, and the excellent New London Children's Choir added a touch of radiance to the final heavenly scene. All in all, a memorable evening, though I could have done without the heavy-handed colour coding of the lighting effects.

TESS KNIGHTON

Channelled towards virtuosity

Hilary Finch listens to the young
players of Guernsey's string quartet



Stringing along: the Ladies' College founding line-up

The unsuspecting visitor to Guernsey in late spring may well be deceived into thinking that the island has everything. Traffic that drifts along at 30mph and stops for pedestrians; subtropical flora and bluebellis; cuckoos and puffins; home-made ice-cream and oysters. Everything, that is, except a resident professional string quartet. But on a hill-top called Les Grèves, change is in the air.

The eyes may be still very much fixed on the music-stands, but the sound is a fine, close blend, the solo entries robust. As the first violin draws back to the second subject of Dvorák's *American Quartet*, a slight side-step to the minor key shows just how tricky intonation can be at that point.

Suddenly the second violin leads the way into a spikily imitative passage, asserting its right to be a soloist, and also to speak out. "When we get to figure eight, there should be a change of mood, shouldn't there? I mean, like, this is something quite new?" "Yes!" The first violin concurs. "And make sure that the speed picks up at six. It's up to you to really keep it going."

The string quartet of the



Ladies' College, Guernsey, was formed by peripatetic violin teacher David Cooper out of an advanced string group set up in turn by head of music Joan Le Flem, who Port and, after fog had diverted them from Birmingham to Exeter, they arrived at Cambridge halfway through the weekend, having missed their masterclass.

island three or four times a year in their capacity as section principals of the Guernsey Symphony Orchestra. Then they flew across for the National Children's Chamber Music Competition, where they were quite relieved not to be placed, simply because two more visits would have bankrupted them.

For the Cambridge Symposium for Young String Quartets, though, they obtained the necessary sponsorship from Rothschilds (not too difficult on Guernsey). But time, tide and barometric pressure can defeat every bank in St Peter Port and, after fog had diverted them from Birmingham to Exeter, they arrived at Cambridge halfway through the weekend, having missed their masterclass.

What they learnt, though, from a special extra session with Joan Davies of the Fitzwilliam Quartet, was that in quartet playing there is no hiding place. The leader was made to stand up and play a solo in order to learn what it really is to lead; the other three soon found out that there was no second, no half beat of a bar when they, too, were not required to be either soloists in their own right, or skilled accompanists.

Le Flem notices that the quartet players inevitably develop an unusually acute ear and razor-sharp critical faculties. They certainly rehearse as demandingly and combatively as any professional ensemble, though no member has yet been tempted to contribute a piece for the medium to their composition portfolio. They admit that it's safer to stick to Bach chorales.

Just as they are getting used to asserting themselves, to listening and responding, leading and following, the quartet will fall apart. School quartets come with built-in obsolescence: leader and cello will leave next month for the universities of London and Surrey, and the second violin and viola will have to pick two new colleagues in September.

They are determined to continue. Islanders have a way of crossing more water than most — but then being irresistibly drawn back. In one incarnation or another, and doubtless with many changes of personnel, the Ladies' College of Guernsey String Quartet looks set for a long life.

'Lucy Whybrow's Juliet dominates the stage' EVENING STANDARD
'Enthralling...magnificently staged' TIME OUT
'A thrilling production by Adrian Noble' SUNDAY TIMES
'Julian Glover's Friar Lawrence is outstanding' TIMES

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CHOICE 1

Jane Austen again! Emma goes on stage in Islington

VENUE: Opens tonight at the King's Head

CHOICE 2

Corin Redgrave stars in a new RSC play about Washington

VENUE: In preview at the Swan, Stratford

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Mark Elder conducts Elgar and Walton in Birmingham

VENUE: Tonight at Symphony Hall

THEATRE

Who are the mad ones? The old question returns in a fine stage adaptation of Wharton's *Birdy*

Chicken wins over the ego

THEATRE

Birdy
Lyric Studio, W6

If some kindly sponsor were to offer a prize for the oddest performance in London, Matthew Wait would be the actor to beat. He crouches, sometimes on the floor, sometimes on the end of a hospital bed, jerking his head and occasionally emitting what appears to be half a cluck, half a coo. His hands, which he mostly holds behind him, flicker like tail feathers, and his preferred way of eating is to open his mouth a mile wide while a friend gently splits cheese-up food down his throat. He appears, rather literally, to be a chicken.

But is he? We know he is a GI in a psychiatric ward at the end of the Second World War. But is he a soldier driven mad by his experiences, or a sane soldier cannyly pretending to be insane, or an inscrutable soldier who, R.D. Laing-fashion, is forcing us to redefine what we mean by mad and sane? Those are some of the questions William Wharton raised in his novel *Birdy*. Alan Parker repeated in the film, and the dramatist Naomi Wallace now transposes to the stage. The result is a livelier, more gripping evening than I — who have memories of winging off to the Land of Nod during the film — had dared to expect.

Wallace writes in the programme that she was attracted to the novel largely because it showed the dehumanising process by which we are forced to undergo in order to become acceptable 'men' in our society, adding that compassion, sensuality and eroticism between men are repressed in favour of macho show. By way of demonstrating this she has split *Birdy*, as the protagonist is called throughout, and



Birdy (Matthew Wait) and *Al* (Corey Johnson) in Naomi Wallace's fine dramatisation of William Wharton's novel

his friend *Al* into two. We watch Adam Garcia's *Al Jr* and Tam Williams's *Birdy Jr* clumsily clambering on top of Kevin Knight's steel-and-wire set. Then the thing spins, and we see the damaged grown-ups into whom the pressures of an America at war have transformed them.

On the face of it, *Birdy* is the more troubled. His obsession with birds dates from boyhood. He would like nothing better than to change species, and even makes childish efforts to fly,

only to plummet perilously down scarps and into ponds. But the suggestion is that his obvious escapism may be healthier than his friend's attempt to cope with family violence by developing a thick mask and a tough persona. Although the local shrink has cast Corey Johnson's *Al Sr* as a helper and healer, his nerves are actually as bad as playing being birds is a perfectly serious matter.

I would have liked to have learnt more about the events that push *Birdy*

towards avian catatonia; but there is no doubt that Wallace's switches of time and character add to the evening's texture without spoiling its narrative thrust. Moreover, Knight's cast is one of the more impressive I have seen at this sometimes dreary address: quick, bright, and skilful enough to leave you believing that something as silly as playing being birds is a perfectly serious matter.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CABARET: A Katharine Hepburn for the 1990s; the ideal man for Garland and Streisand

Her style so warm

Mary Cleere Haran
Rainbow & Stars,
New York

FEW American vocalists approach a cabaret song with as much grace and elegance as Mary Cleere Haran. No putting balladeer or wide-eyed ingénue, she is a connoisseur who delivers precise, undistorted readings of material from the vintage years of Tin Pan Alley and Hollywood.

British audiences have a chance to get to know her a little better as Richard Rodney Bennett accompanies her in her London debut at Piza On The Park (until July 27). There, as on her most recent album, *This Funny World*, the spotlight is on Bennett's arrangements of songs by Lorenz Hart: some well known, others rescued from the archives.

Attractive as they are, Haran's records do not convey the full breadth of her talent. On disc her careful diction and avoidance of fluff and

ornamentation can appear almost austere. Once you see her in the flesh, and listen to her nonchalant asides, you realise that she is anything but impersonal. Vivacious and playful, sometimes earthy, she resembles nothing so much as a Katharine Hepburn for the Nineties.

All those virtues were paraded in her set at Rainbow & Stars, dedicated to the work of the lyricist Dorothy Fields, who wrote *I'm In The Mood For Love* and *The Way You Look Tonight*.

Barbara Cook helped to focus interest on her work a few years ago with the tribute disc *Close As Pages In A Book*. Accompanied once again by Bennett, Haran managed to squeeze in reams of biographical detail without lapsing into didacticism.

The colloquialisms of the songs themselves were perfectly pitched, with just the right combination of big-city sophistication and romanticising. *Pick Yourself Up* and *A Fine Romance* took us to the era of Fred and Ginger. Poised in her diaphanous gown, Haran languidly evoked the era of the *He de France* and *The March of Time*.

On a humid night, the clouds had obscured the city lights beneath our skyscraper. Haran's voice recreated them in our minds. When she peeled off her white gloves, you sensed the whole room holding its breath.

CLIVE DAVIS

Judy in disguise

Jim Bailey
Green Room, Café Royal,
London W1

IT WAS in London, 27 years ago last month, that Judy Garland died: but through the necromantic skill of Jim Bailey, she is smiling and singing as vibrantly as ever at the Green Room. Bailey is alternating his Garland and his equally uncanny impersonation of Barbara Streisand to full houses and his season has been extended until Saturday. A few moments in the company of his creations makes the reason clear: he becomes these singers to a degree that defies disbelief.

Other performers may capture the look, the timbre, the intonation or the mannerisms, but only he can achieve them all and maintain them through an hour or more on stage, the audience just beyond his outstretched arm and in many cases devoutly devoted to the divas being represented. You aren't "diss" Judy or Barbara in front of an

upmarket gay crowd, honey, and Bailey currently has even the most nipping of them cheering in appreciation.

As last year at the same venue, his Streisand, from impeccably-parted coiffure to dainty foot, is compellingly authentic. The between-songs babbling is as convincing as the big, confident voice or the way the hand absently traces an arc from the crown of the head to the tip of the fringe.

And Judy? Well, by Gurney, she is in terrific form. The smile is just a little too bright, the stomach a touch prominent, the chat tumbling over itself with a girlish eagerness to please and to be liked. The voice is warm, thrilling, even lusty.

Not only the obvious songs are offered: after all, this is a knowledgeable crowd, and Bailey, apart from having sung alongside Liza Minnelli, recreating the mother-daughter partnership, has performed at the express invitation of both Streisand and Minnelli, so he knows whereof he speaks. His accompanist, Sean Gough, is impeccably attuned to the nuances of both performances and it is said that should you be close enough to the stage, you can verify that even the perfume is in character. Uncanny, and as classy an act as you could hope to find.

TONY PATRICK

LONDON

BILL FRISSELL: The American guitarist plays his distinctive brand of improvised music in a programme that pairs elements of blues and country blues with free jazz and rock 'n' roll. Queens Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 0171-880 4242. Tonight, 7.45pm.

EMMA: Last of Jane Austen's six novels to be dramatised for stage, cinema or television in the past 12 months. Michael Fry's adaptation adds the artful framework of a bossy girl who stages a play about the bossy heroine. King's Head, Upper Street, N1 0171-228 1918. Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL: A performance by young dancers who represent the future of British classical dance. The evening's programme includes En Balais by Pierre Neumege de Valois and David Bintley's dramatic *Rake's Progress*, preceded by national and folk dances. There are also two new ballets: by Christopher Wheeldon to the music of Benjamin Britten and by Jennifer Jackson to the music of Bach. Holland Park, Holland Park, W8 0171-602 7866. Tonight-Sat, 8pm; Sat, 2.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: This evening's concert at the Symphony Hall is performed by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Elgar's in the South and the

TODAY'S CHOICE

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ■ Seats at all prices

THE DECAMERON: Nick Ward directs his own selection of tales from Boccaccio, updating them to a contemporary setting. Last in the season of "New Playwrights". Apollo Theatre, 11 Pentonville Road, W1 0171-223 0708. Preview begins tonight, 7.30pm. Opens July 22, 8pm. The Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until August 17.

HABES CORPUS: Tenthic cast for revival of Alan Bennett's modern farce. Brenda Blethyn, Celia Imrie, Imelda Staunton, Jim Broadbent, Nicholas Woodeson, and Sam Mendes directing. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 0171-389 1729. Mon-Sat, 8pm; Mat, Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until July 27.

JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN: Paul Scofield, Vanessa Redgrave, Eileen Atkins and Michael Byrne. Directed by Richard Eyre. A mighty cast for Borkman's preposterous play, concerned with race, romance and reconciliation. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 0171-329 2222. Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm; Tue-Sat, 2.15pm. Fri, 7.30pm.

MARTIN GUERRE: The latest British and Schöndorfer, set to follow the success of *Les Mis* and *Miss Sa*. Decca Dancers directs a cast led by Glen Clovis and Juliette Cohen in a tale based on the true 18th-century story of love, war and identity.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London (where indicated with the symbol ●) on release across the country

THE CABLE GUY (12): Onscreen comedy with Jim Carrey as a pathological cable television technician. With Matthew Broderick. Director, Ben Stiller. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) MGMA; Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Odeon; Kensington (01426 914 666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914 666) UCI Whiteleys (01990 888 930) Virgin Fulham Road (0171-370 2639) Warner West End (0171-427 0343).

THE CELLULOSE CLOSET (15): Absorbing documentary about the treatment of gays in mainstream movies. Directors, Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Ritz (0171-737 2121) Screen on Baker Street (0171-325 2772) Virgin Hayward (0171-429 1527).

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (U): Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse, and possibly successful, mix of the caddy and the dandy. Directors, Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise. Odeon Leicester Square (01426-915 663).

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LEVERNE GALLERY: 30 Bruton St, W1, 0171 492 2622. **FRAGGATO TO FRANCES BACON:** 24 June - 26 July, Mon-Fri 10.30am-6pm.

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OPERA & BALLET

Glyndebourne Festival Opera: with The London Philharmonic. Friday 19, Mon 22 at 5.15pm. Ambleside, Sat 20 at 5pm. Lanes, Sun 21 at 1.30pm. Daylight. For possible returns, contact call 01273 81313.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

ANDRE LHOÏE AND ENGLISH IRISH FRIENDS: Patrick Gallery 28 June - 19 July 11 Maccob St SW1, 0171 258 6144

LEVERNE GALLERY: 30 Bruton St, W1, 0171 492 2622. **FRAGGATO TO FRANCES BACON:** 24 June - 26 July, Mon-Fri 10.30am-6pm.

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LA TRAVIATA:</

In east London a new community is rising from the rubble of a crime-ridden Sixties high-rise estate. Rachel Kelly reports

Home is where the tower block was

The day I visited Oliver Close, overlooking Hackney Marshes in east London, the men from the Ordnance Survey were there. They were mapping the 170 new brick houses built on the former site of a grey concrete tower block.

Pensioners potted in freshly planted front gardens. Children whizzed by on bikes. Christine Harris, for 17 years a resident of the 24-storey Sixties Clifford Hicks block, summed up their enthusiasm. "The atmosphere is completely different here. Friends come to visit us. Asian neighbours ask you in to taste their food."

"Previously nobody came to see us in the tower block. They were worried about leaving their car, so they would just totter their hampers for you to come down in the lift. People didn't even want to give out their address, as there was such a stigma about living in the blocks."

But this is more than just a tale of demolition. It is the story of a community regenerated. Ask residents what thrills them, and the answer could just as well be the job training schemes and the new community centre, the lower crime rates and friendly neighbours, as the new houses.

This is perhaps the most ambitious urban regeneration project in the country. £250 million is being spent over ten years to rehouse 6,500 people in 1,690 houses. Few other local authorities have undertaken such a complex and large-scale project. When completed, it will be a showcase of urban housing renewal. As the project's chief executive, Mike Wilson, says: "It's not just about the houses. Rebuilding alone doesn't solve the problems that had developed on the estate. All you end up with are new homes and the same vandalism, poverty and general deprivation that existed before."

"We are trying to regenerate the area by improving people's chances of jobs, the facilities that are available, and the spirit of the place to create a self-sustaining community with control over its future."

The ten tower blocks that made up the Waltham Forest estate needed urgent attention. Surveys in 1987 showed that it would cost £110 million to refurbish and repair them.

This was a classic "sink" council estate, housing some of the most deprived families in Britain. The Prince of Wales once called the blocks the worst he had ever visited. Unemployment ran at 40 per cent on the four blocks of Oliver Close, Boundary Road, Cathall Close and Chingford Hall. The flats suffered from broken entrances, vandalised garages and burnt-out bins areas. Fly-tipping was common and cars were frequently torched. The blocks themselves were poorly insulated and many were structurally unsound.

But funding for repairs proved a stumbling block. The first possible solution was suggested in 1987. The plan was to set up a company run by tenants and Waltham Forest Council, which would update the properties with funding from central government. Then the company would lease the flats back to the council. But in March 1988, the Government announced restrictions on any lease-back funding.

The second plan in 1988 was to set up a tenant-run housing association which would be funded by selling some flats and by a dowry from the council. The Environment Department blocked the scheme.

The deadlock was broken the following year with proposals for a Housing Action Trust (HAT). In April 1991, the then Minister of Housing, Sir George Young, visited the estates and announced that a ballot of tenants would take place in the summer. Of the 75 per cent of tenants who turned out to vote, 81 per cent were in favour. It was a propaganda triumph for the Government. At last their longed-for HAT scheme had begun.

Ownership of the flats was transferred from the council to the HAT in April 1992. A board was set up, and by 1993 the estates were being managed by the HAT rather than the council.

Oliver Close is the first phase of the HAT's ambitious plan to redevelop the whole estate in four phases. One innovation is to transfer tenants straight from their old flats into new houses on the same estate in a single move.

New houses were built on unused open space at the borders of the estate. This allowed two tower blocks to be vacated and demolished in the second phase, with the process repeated for another two phases. The structural engineer, Alan Baxter & Associates, helped to delineate the four rolling phases of demolition, so as not to cut off heating and other main services. Three occupied tower blocks remain.

Tenants themselves were involved in choosing the design of their new homes, and run their own "design group". In answer to questionnaires, 95 per cent of tenants wanted a back garden with a front door on the street. Defensible space and curtain twitching were preferable to isolation on a deck-access higher storey. They were asked to state their preferences on the shape of rooms, as well as kitchen and bathroom units and paint colours.

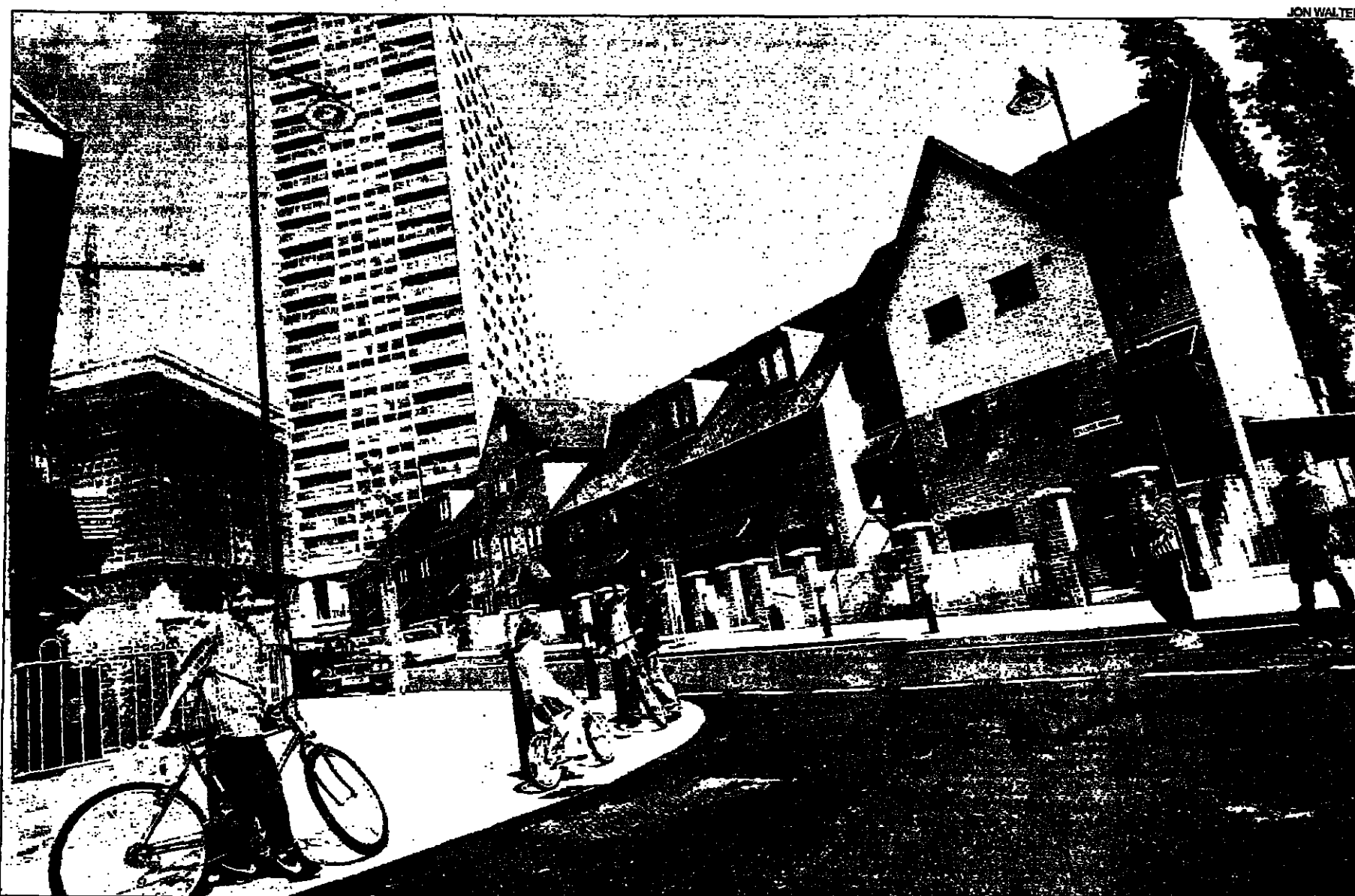
Residents felt strongly about kitchens. They wanted them at the back of the house, with the smart front rooms on show for passers-by. And they didn't want children marching in from the back garden to the living room with muddy shoes. They wanted them coming into the kitchen.

The result is terrace houses fronting narrow streets with tiny rear gardens, recreating the Victorian street pattern, plus a scattering of upstairs maisonettes reached by external dog-leg stairs. They are hardly revolutionary in design. But there are gable fronts, pitched roof canopies, dormer windows and two-tone brickwork, all in the "arts and crafts" style favoured by the architect, Hunt Thompson.

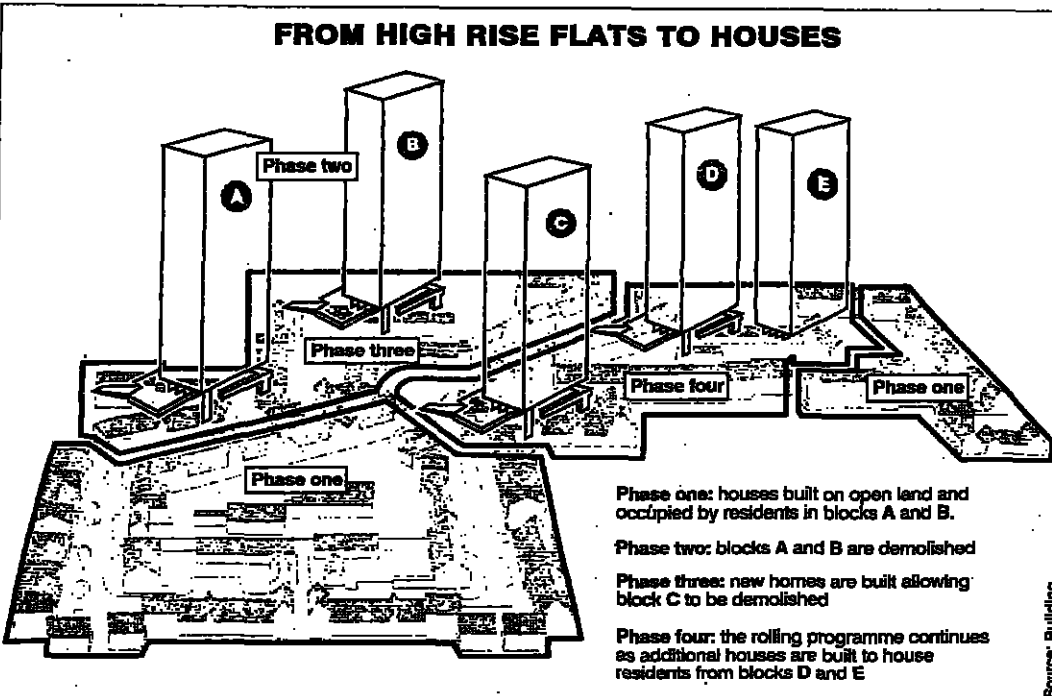
"THE BASIC concept of the old high-rise block design encourages crime by making it easy for the criminal to go undetected. There are lots of nooks and crannies where burglars, muggers or vandals can hide."

So says Chief Inspector Royston Colbourne, in charge of the crime prevention division at Leytonstone police station. The new low-rise houses at Waltham Forest make front doors visible to the passing public, and there are few hiding places. Lighting has been improved, and there are fewer alleyways and no underground car-parks or lifts.

The police are fond of stressing that they have "designed out" crime: a buzz-phrase referring to the lay-out of the new streets. Col-



New low-rise brick-built terraces provide traditional homes in the shadow of one of the remaining concrete towers: crime has fallen and a community is taking shape



The first tenants moved into their new homes 13 months ago. Others are less lucky. The main frustration voiced by tenants is the slowness of redevelopment. It has already taken seven years since the first plans were drawn up, and the project will not be completed until 2002.

They are consoled by improvements to the tower blocks meanwhile. The windows have been strengthened with toughened glass. The door bolts have been improved and the blocks repainted. Life is already more bearable for tenants. At the start of redevelopment, concrete podiums and an abandoned, crime-ridden car-park beneath the blocks were removed, moves already vindicated by falling crime statistics.

The HAT's concerns go beyond bricks and mortar. Tenants are encouraged to participate in all

aspects of estate renewal. Four of the directors on the nine-strong HAT board are tenants. Each block has a tenants' steering group. Around 20 per cent of tenants are actively involved in the HAT. Debbie Griggs has chaired the estate steering group at Oliver Close for two years. The steering group's role is to represent tenants on any and every matter," she says. "We deal with children, health and safety, and maintaining proper services for the people still left in the tower blocks."

Part of the HAT's offices at the foot of one of the tower blocks has been converted into a community centre, hosting aerobics, karate classes for children, a one-stop health shop particularly focused on the number of residents suffering from asthma, and an out-of-school children's club.

"These will benefit those from the surrounding community as well as our tenants," says Mr Wilson. "Our arts development programme is trying to create a strong community life, and to involve young people. If it takes rap music events, as well as drama, photography and creative writing, to attract youth away from the streets, so be it."

Training courses in construction are laid on at a second centre on the estate, which also runs a Careers Advice and Placement Project open to all tenants, and a Business and IT centre. "The CAPP makes sure that estate tenants get first interviews for any local job coming up. And it gets the building contractors to employ locals," says Mrs Griggs. Firms employed by the HAT are committed to using 20 per cent local

AN EXPERIMENT IN HOUSING ACTION

HATs off to tenants

HOUSING Action Trusts were enshrined in the 1988 Housing Act, the brainchild of the then Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, as the Tory answer to Britain's housing problems. Despite the overall success of the right-to-buy policy, council flats, especially in tower blocks, had proved almost impossible to sell.

The action trusts would, after a tenants' vote, take control of such properties away from town halls and hand them to the tenants. Funding for maintenance and improvement would come from central government. The principle was similar to that for opted-out schools, which were taken from councils and

given to parents, with funding from Whitehall.

But the plan fell flat. Tenants across Britain proved loyal to their local councils. Fearing that their security of tenure would be at risk, or that rents would rise, they spurned the action trust experiment.

Then tenants woke up to the possibilities of extra funding. Tenants in Hull, Liverpool, Birmingham and Waltham Forest realised that just as the Government had ensured above-average funding for opted-out schools, so it would do the same for opted-out estates. There was no other chance of getting money to improve their homes.

labour and 20 per cent local suppliers. McAlpine took on 30 local brickies and carpenters in the first phase of buildings, and the demolition contractor has offered 15 jobs to tenants. In all, the careers advice and training schemes have helped 561 tenants into work and a further 538 into training.

There have been complaints, chiefly from consultants involved in the projects who have criticised other professional advisers and suggested that too many experts and different architects were used. Four different architects have been used for each stage, but Mr Wilson counters that each has improved on the previous schemes.

Others have muttered about planning inefficiencies: 170 families have not got a home in the new redevelopment, so the trust will have to buy land elsewhere to

house them. But that is inevitable in a project of this size, says Mr Wilson. Households change. Babies are born, the old die.

The improvements have been made possible by the Environment Department's generous funding. The HAT has spent £150,000 per house, including the demolition of the old homes, the diversion of mains services and an underground river, and the construction of a six-metre wall as a barrier against sound and pollution from the North Circular Road. Actual building costs for a five-person, three-bedroom house of £50,201 are comparable with the allowance for equivalent housing association homes.

The Government has no plans for any more HATs, and the Waltham Forest HAT will cease to exist when redevelopment is finished in 2002. Tenants will then vote for their future landlord, be it a return to the council, a new community-based housing association, or another local housing association.

But there are lessons from Waltham Forest. Its achievement has been to tackle problems together rather than in isolation. The investment is huge, but the long-term gains may prove so as well.

The Government's latest vehicle for urban renewal is the Single Regeneration Budget, which councils can bid for. Funds are given to tackle housing, education, employment and social services in Britain's most run-down estates in a concerted effort.

"The buzzword in housing is 'housing plus'," says Mr Wilson. "And I think HATs have gone some way in helping to make that the norm."

POLICE JOIN RESIDENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

Plant shrubs, lock windows

de-sacs mean that criminals can't escape front gardens provide a natural defensible space: the back gardens back on to other gardens hindering escape routes.

"We told the architects where to place windows and put off-street parking so that people could see their cars," says Mr Colbourne. "Police patrols have been co-ordinated with those of the HAT's own security officers."

Ironically, low-rise housing brings its own problems, says PC Wayne Jones, a crime prevention

officer in Leytonstone. "There are more doors and windows through which the criminal can enter. The estate was also going to look new and prosperous, which would encourage burglars."

Therefore the new homes have been fitted with locks recommended by the police, and homeowners are being taught basic crime prevention. "These people have never had gardens before," says Mr Jones. "We're helping them to decide what kind of shrubs to plant which will eventu-

ally grow to act like a fence. It's more attractive than mesh and just as effective."

Mr Colbourne agrees. "Many of the residents aren't used to living in low-rise buildings," he says, "and will forget simple crime prevention actions such as closing windows."

In 1992-93 there was an average of six cases of forced entry burglary a month; there have been just three incidents in total in the past two years. The fear of crime has also been reduced,

according to the latest tenant-satisfaction survey from the HAT. Problems do still exist. Common assault and theft from motor vehicles are rife. In October 1994 there were four recorded car crimes in October 1995 this had risen to ten. In February of this year there were seven incidents of crime with violence.

Perhaps the most lasting achievement will be the attitude of residents. As Mr Colbourne says: "People on the estate are proud of where they live now. They're more likely to look after their properties and less likely to turn to crime themselves. Prior to the scheme there was an isolationist attitude among the residents. A sense of community really is developing."

Conservationists are fighting to save Jersey's Colombarie House, which they claim is the work of Sir John Soane



Colombarie House, built in the 18th century but later altered

An application for the demolition of Colombarie House in Jersey will be put to the Jersey Planning Committee next month, despite the best efforts of conservationists and architectural historians to save the house.

The house's supporters have renewed their efforts to save Colombarie after a letter to *The Times* highlighted the house's architectural merit.

Coopers & Lybrand, which occupies the building, has concluded that the property has no "significant architectural merit". But documents in the Sir John Soane museum show the architect's involvement in remodelling the existing 1770s house, according to the letter from Margaret Rich-

ardson, the museum's curator. Colombarie is believed to be the only building in the Channel Islands with any alteration by an architect of such national importance as Soane, who also designed the Bank of England and the Dulwich picture gallery.

Geoffrey Grime, the head of Coopers & Lybrand in Jersey, defended the decision to demolish the building.

"We would stress that Jersey's Royal Court ruled in 1992 that the building could not be accredited to Sir John Soane," he said. "We would also point out that the building is owned by Manip Ltd, the family firm of Peter Blampied, a former senior partner at Coopers."

Mr Blampied said the documents did not change his view

Letter fuels the Jersey row

that the house should be demolished. "This is not fresh evidence. We knew about these documents in 1992 when the Royal Court spent a long time considering drawings done by Soane of the house."

It was argued prior to the hearing by some that Colombarie had been designed by Soane. In fact the property had been built before 1810, when Soane was consulted. Though he may have altered some of the internal

detail, the only change to the outside of the property was the lowering of some of the windowsills.

Mr Blampied added: "If any criticism exists for the proposals that are now shortly to be implemented, I accept the responsibility. I believe that Colombarie enjoyed any significant architectural merit, I would want to preserve it."

Professor F. Fielden, who

advised Coopers & Lybrand at the time of the Royal Court hearing, supports Mr Blampied's view. "Certainly in 1810, Hemery (the owner) sent survey drawings of the house to Soane, who prepared an ambitious scheme of refurbishment. But this was not carried out... Soane would have been horrified if the resulting work had been attributed to him."

But conservationists are passionate in the building's defence. Alastair Layzell, the chairman of Save Jersey's Heritage, said: "I am astonished that Coopers will not respond to the architectural evidence. I'm amazed they will not respond to the likes of the Prince of Wales, who has campaigned to save this building. They seem to have set

their face against any new evidence."

Two years of research by the architect and scholar of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Ptolemy Dean, has highlighted how Soane imposed his general architectural ideas on the building. Mr Dean has also found the building to be in good condition, in contrast to Coopers & Lybrand, which says the house is in a poor state.

"My research has reassessed the evidence which led to the decision of Jersey's Royal Court in 1992 to demolish the house," Mr Dean said. "Coopers must have the courage to be enlightened. Otherwise the losers will be the people of Jersey."

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QUAY VIEW

ARSEN CREST DOCKLANDS E14 2 bed luxury apartments. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms. 0171 371 4171.

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PEMBROKE ROAD W8

Top floor 1 bed apartment in luxury block, 1st floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 dining room, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 dining room. 0171 371 4171.

Top floor 1 bed apartment in luxury block, 1st floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 dining room, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 dining room. 0171 371 4171.

Top floor 1 bed apartment in luxury block, 1st floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 dining room, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 dining room. 0171 371 4171.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

QUINTON Detached house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms. 0171 371 4171.

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ST MARGARETS

Double fronted detached Victorian family house. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms. 0171 371 4171.

Double fronted detached Victorian family house. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms. 0171 371 4171.

Double fronted detached Victorian family house. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms. 0171 371 4171.

DEVON

AN IMPRESSIVE 16th Century Manor House, swimming pool, 6 acres, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 living rooms, 4 kitchens, 4 dining rooms, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 living rooms, 4 kitchens, 4 dining rooms. 0171 371 4171.

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A rare opportunity to combine period splendour with modern convenience. Due to recent sales success, there are now only two luxury apartments remaining at Poet's Corner, Harpenden.

The apartments are set within large period properties which have been beautifully refurbished incorporating many of the original design features and including a high quality specification. If you have a property to sell, opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing property (subject to scheme rules). But hurry, there are only two apartments remaining.

Plot 2. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment at £139,950

Plot 19. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom show apartment at £113,950

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Poet's Corner, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

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Small monthly repayments.

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Take advantage now of the lowest mortgage rates for over 30 years and your monthly repayments could be as little as £278.00 (based on a 95% mortgage). What's more Wimpey Homes will even cover your 5% deposit and pay £1,000 towards your legal fees. While for second time buyers looking to move up the housing ladder, part exchange is available.

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YARMOUTH ISLE OF WIGHT
Lymington 4 miles, Newport 9 miles, Cowes 9 miles.

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• With direct water frontage onto Solent.
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Semi detached 3 bed terraced, 21ft lounge with living flame gas fire and patio window leading to south-facing garden. Included garden: double glazed greenhouse; gas central heating; detached 2 bed house; detached 2 bed house. 01796 701 0158 800000.

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Two bedroom riverside apartments with free membership of the Harbour Club.

Work out at the Harbour Club whenever you like, with a free single membership to the leisure and health facilities. Then come home to a stylish, spacious apartment with 24 hour security and underground parking. There's even a shuttle bus to Fulham Broadway.

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BBC

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Personal Assistant to Head of Rights Negotiation and Head of Legal Advice for the Rights Archive

LONDON

The Rights Archive is a very small department tasked with managing the BBC's rights. We acquire rights - leading all the negotiations with unions such as the Musicians Union and Equity; and we licence rights - licensing BBC programmes to BBC Worldwide and to third parties.

Head of Rights Negotiation and the Head of Legal Advice for the Rights Archive are looking for an excellent Personal Assistant to manage a wide ranging and varied workload.

You will liaise at all levels in the BBC as well as with senior officials in Trade Unions and other external organisations.

We are ideally looking for someone with:

- 2 years' or more secretarial experience, preferably working to more than one person
- excellent secretarial skills including fast, accurate typing (copy and audio), and experience of PowerPoint, Excel and Word 6
- excellent organisation skills and the ability to cope effectively with a high volume of work

You must also be articulate, self-confident, able to deal with a variety of people at all levels, and have a sense of humour too!

For an application form contact (quote ref. 22164/T) BBC Recruitment Services on 0181-849 0849 Minicom 0181-231 9231. Alternatively, send a passported BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W5 2WY by July 26th. Application forms to be returned by July 31st.

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£20,685 to £22,137 inclusive.

The college is a large forward looking Further Education College based on several sites in South West London. We deliver a diverse range of courses from foundation to postgraduate level to over 30,000 young people and adults every year.

We wish to appoint a Professional Assistant who will be responsible for providing professional and secretarial services to the Principal's Executive team. The post holder will undertake research assignments, organise events, arrange and support meetings, investigate complaints, and line manage the team of personal assistants in the Secretariat.

Further details and an application form returnable by Friday 2 August 1996, please contact the Personnel Department, South Thames College, Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PP, telephone 0181 918 7015.

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Bankers Trust

Bankers Trust is a global financial services company that operates in the world's financial markets to deliver tailored financial solutions to its clients and to provide superior returns to its shareholders. Hays Personnel Services have been on-site consultants within the bank for the past 6 months dealing with all temporary vacancies that arise within the bank with a particular emphasis on banking/finance and secretarial vacancies.

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Superb opportunity for a junior secretary to work within a busy but fun environment. Systems knowledge of Excel and Word for Windows is advantageous.

Corporate Finance PA

Accurate typing speeds and experience of Word for Windows and Excel are the key criteria for this long term assignment.

Receptionist/Secretary

A 'full of variety' role is how this position could be described. You will work within the reception area, co-ordinating meeting rooms, designing and layout for internal bulletins and possess typing speeds of 50wpm+ and a good working knowledge of Excel.

To find out about these and future opportunities within Bankers Trust contact Hays Banking Personnel on 0171 638 7003 or fax your CV on 0171 628 5057, 41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.

All direct applications will be forwarded to Hays Banking Personnel.

Hays Banking Personnel**FIRST FOR FINANCE**

£15,000 - £22,000 + Unbeatable Benefits

Yes that's right - Unbeatable Benefits, good basic salaries, huge bonus and plenty of involvement - interested? If you have a solid financial background, good secretarial skills and a flexible manner, call now.

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Pan European has been retained by one of the world's most prestigious, international hospitality companies. If you are a professional team secretary who has knowledge of Word for Windows, Excel & PowerPoint, we could be your passport to a new career.

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IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (Min 60wpm)

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• WP4W Director's PA (Part-time) Indef

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• Team Secretary (Healthcare) Indef
• Team Secretary (PAC) Three months

If you have good shorthand/audio skills, are aged 20-40 and have working knowledge of Windows packages, call us now.

**PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT**0171 734 8484
Fax 0171 734 8521**PA to Chief Executive**

£18,000

This varied and responsible support role calls for a professional PA who wants total involvement and decision-making authority. • An organisation of 20 staff, the Partnership brings together Government, the local authority, businesses and the community to regenerate the Dalston City Corridor, Hackney. • You will be pivotal in organising every facet of our business from building maintenance to recruitment and personnel issues - all by supporting our busy and demanding Chief Executive. • Fast, accurate typing skills (tested to 55wpm on Word Perfect 5.2 for Windows), senior level management experience (at least one year) and with initiative and confidence in abundance, you will supervise a team of four and ensure a highly efficient service - often delivered under extreme pressure. • The environment is friendly and very challenging. A fixed term contract to March 1998. • For an application form and further details please contact Paul Donaldson on 0181 525 3171 (24 hour answering machine) or write to him at: CSG Personnel, Hackney Town Hall, London E8 1EA. Please quote ref: DCC/PA. Closing date for applications 2nd August 1996. Interviews and tests will be held w/c 12th August 1996. DCC is an Equal Opportunities Employer and provides a smoke free working environment.



Dalston City Challenge

AGENDA

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Looking for quality? So are we.

Agenda Design Associates, a leading graphic design consultancy, are looking for a committed and motivated PA Administrator. A professional administrator, highly organised with experience of working in a fast moving environment. You will be confident, articulate and a team player with initiative and enthusiasm.

If you're conscientious and have a proven experience (Microsoft Word/Powerpoint/Excel) please apply in writing enclosing your CV to: Agenda Design Associates, 100 Regent Street, London W1B 4AH. No agencies please.

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WORKING

Smart, flexible, calm, conscientious and personable PA with excellent shorthand, typing and word processing skills is required for a prestigious company. An excellent package is available for a non-smoker who enjoys a challenge and working to the highest possible standards.

Please Reply to Box No 7516

ADVERTISING - PA

(paid - late 20's) to the MD of this famous top 10 advertising agency. Candidates must have shorthand (100 wpm) and senior level advertising experience, with a calm, intelligent personality.

Call Joanna at HSR Lever Rec. Co. Tel: 0171 323 5523.

**LEATHERHEAD
PA to European VP
c. £20,000**

Our client is a dynamic world leader in enterprise-wide information storage & retrieval technology.

You are an exceptional PA, highly organised & capable of taking initiative in this fast moving environment. You will enjoy the challenge of operating at senior levels, taking responsibility, & providing a support service that is second to none for a boss who travels extensively.

If you have high energy levels, a good sense of humour & expertise in Microsoft Office, we would like to hear from you.

Send CV & covering letter stating current salary to Louise Gill, Appointments International, 4 Gloucester, 70 Ridgeway, Wimbledon, London SW19 4RA. Fax 0181 948 5722.

**Project Administrator
£18-20,000 + Bank Bens**

This leading investment bank is offering a superb opportunity for a proven administrator to start up this new position. It needs a highly organised individual to control and maintain all global network procedures in admin, tracking, budgeting and reports etc. You will also arrange travel, inhouse training and attend all project meetings. Must have 2 years MS Office, Access and project experience and be able to communicate at all levels.

For an interview please call Annelise Bingham on 0171 377 9919 now.

RECRUITMENT

**PA - A TRUE PROFESSIONAL
(Richmond £18-20K + Bonus)**

We are a youthful, friendly, fast growing marketing services company with a market leading reputation and blue chip client base. We only employ the most talented people who take pride in their work.

You will be the right hand person to the MD helping him to help his colleagues to excel. Other responsibilities include office administration, personnel, managing reception staff. You need the following qualities: Experience, confidence, enthusiasm, a sense of humour, client facing, work well under pressure. A level/Degree education, 80 wpm, numeracy, spreadsheet skills.

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

We are also looking for a presentable, experienced receptionist with initiative, excellent telephone manner and well developed secretarial skills. Salary £12,000-£15,000 + bonus.

If you know you are really talented and want to join a great company please call Debbie Coughlan on 0181 332 2181.

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HOUSINGLOW??
£18000 + PACKAGE**

Housinglow's changed! Impressive offices attract blue-chip international, including our client. So, if you're a senior secretary wishing to join a progressive, professional U.S. organisation that respects talent, please contact us. Essential: 'can-do' mentality, 'A' level education, 2/3 yrs senior experience with a multi-national + fast W4W, Powerpoint & Excel too.

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Director of major player in the advertising world is looking for a real 'right-hand'. Busy, busy, busy, great team spirit, wonderful surroundings and long hours working for a successful start-up of a new W4W, Powerpoint and rusty w/h essential. Age 25-35.

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TO £23000**

PA blessed with poise, poise and personality - needed for MD of leading PR co. You'll have a senior level media related background and you're a cheerful diplomat too with fast w/h in constant use. Age 25-35.

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Lambert Smith Hampton is one of the leading commercial property consultancies in the UK with extensive regional cover, having recently achieved PLC status and full Stock Exchange listing.

The Company Secretary requires experience and secretarial support from a well educated, mature and highly motivated secretary. You will enjoy producing high quality work using your excellent audio typing and organisational skills on a varied and demanding workload (including spreadsheets). The position offers scope to take full responsibility for a range of tasks.

Your cheerful personality will be appreciated in a stimulating and friendly environment based in the central management office near Oxford Circus. Please send your CV to: The ROP, Lambert Smith Hampton, Prince Frederick House, 37 Maddox Street, London W1B 4LD or fax on 0171 483 4868

Lambert Smith Hampton

MOSSMAN & CO
c£20,000 West End

SECRETARY
£12,000 - £15,000 + Bonus
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'TEMPS'
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The Language Business

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We are desperately seeking a proactive graduate calibre Secretary with 6 months secretarial experience. Working in a team environment, your responsibilities will be diverse and will range from handling all the recruitment admin, talking to agencies and providing secretarial and organisational support to a couple of busy HR professionals. A genuine interest in Human Resources will be rewarded with progression and the opportunity to learn. If you have 50 wpm typing, MS word and are outgoing, well presented and have the confidence to communicate with people at all levels then please call us.
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c£15,000 + benefits**
Required for Victoria Head Office of Schools' charity. Main task will be the organisation of the Director's workload, reception work and general secretarial duties. We seek a well educated and well spoken person who is technologically competent and who has some appropriate experience and the adaptability necessary to work in a small team. Starting date 1 September.
Please forward your CV including indication of current earnings together with the names of two referees to Mary Dobson, United Westminster Schools, 33 Palace St., SW1E 5SL

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WA £25k + Excellent Bens
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Working for a dynamic global organisation, your responsibility will be to provide full administrative and organisational support to one of the most senior Directors in the company. Proven experience of managing projects and dealing with issues in your boss's absence is key; along with the ability to read a situation and exercise judgements. Travel arrangements, diary management, preparing presentations and composing correspondence are just a few of the many interesting tasks attached to this role. If you are a professional PA with a sound business acumen and are proficient on MS Office packages, then please call.
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PA with marketing qualities
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We appreciate experience; the ideal age might well be over 40.
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£20,000 + FRP
Work at Senior Partner level providing secretarial support to three charming professionals in well-established company close to Baker Street station. Excellent environment, very sociable, superb office. 90/90 min. suit well presented 23+ yr old.
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£25,000 + benefits
Many role for confident, ext. Co-ordinate clients, produce presentations and handle administration. Using your confident communication skills you will liaise with clients and research information on products. Strong organisational abilities and a financial or legal background will secure you this leading post. W4W, Powerpoint, Excel, business travel, job, etc., pressure and bonus allowance.

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Salary £16K depending on experience.
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CALL: 0171 936 3855 Estate Agency Rec.

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This international investment banking team is looking for a switched on Secretary who is both personable and professional. Manage diaries, prepare presentations, field calls & generally keep tabs on these three charming Directors. City experience preferred. Windows spreadsheet & 60 wpm essential.
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Busy, involved role supporting Financial Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the Director's diary, liaising with clients and handling correspondence. Strong organisational abilities and a financial or legal background will secure you this leading post. W4W, Powerpoint, Excel, business travel, job, etc., pressure and bonus allowance.

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£19,500
We have two vacancies. The first is working from 4.30pm and the second is from 9am to 5.30pm. For both positions you must have 2 years' commercial legal experience and a knowledge of W4W v.a.
Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer
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Fax: 0171 782 7586

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

An experienced and enthusiastic person is required to provide administrative and secretarial support to the Editorial Services and Group Syndication Managers. Editorial Services provides a range of services to editorial departments, including text and picture libraries, electronic databases, copywriting and archiving. Syndication sells the editorial content of our newspapers for republication in the UK and abroad.

The work is varied and interesting. In addition to the usual range of secretarial duties, the Administrative Assistant compiles reports and newsletters, organises and administers training within the Department and is closely involved in financial management. We seek someone who can review and streamline the department's existing procedures to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Word processing (Word for Windows) and spreadsheet (Excel and/or Lotus) skills are essential. The ability to use presentation packages, preferably Powerpoint would be useful. Attractive salary.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
Brenda Hemmings, Human Resources Department,
News International Newspapers Ltd,
PO Box 481
London, E1 9BD

PA TO MD

UP TO £25,000 + MS + BENS

This expanding West End based Investment House urgently requires a PA with good skills and excellent organisational ability to work for their Managing Director. The position will offer responsibility for an office junior, prioritising a heavy administration workload and co-ordinating meetings. Age 24 - 29.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

secretaries

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Various openings exist for banking PA/Secretaries to work within the dynamic world of Corporate Finance. Definite opportunities to earn ££'s in OT.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

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secretaries

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£35,000 + MS + BENS

Superb opportunity for an organised, capable individual to co-ordinate a team of 30 Secretaries. The position incorporates supervising workloads, setting up rota systems and general management within an Investment Bank. The ideal candidate will be aged 28 - 35, have strong supervisory skills and good knowledge of MS Office.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
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See Cost

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Lottery clouds financial outlook

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer received a timely reminder of the parlous state of racing and betting industry finances yesterday in the annual report of the Horserace Betting Levy Board laid before Parliament.

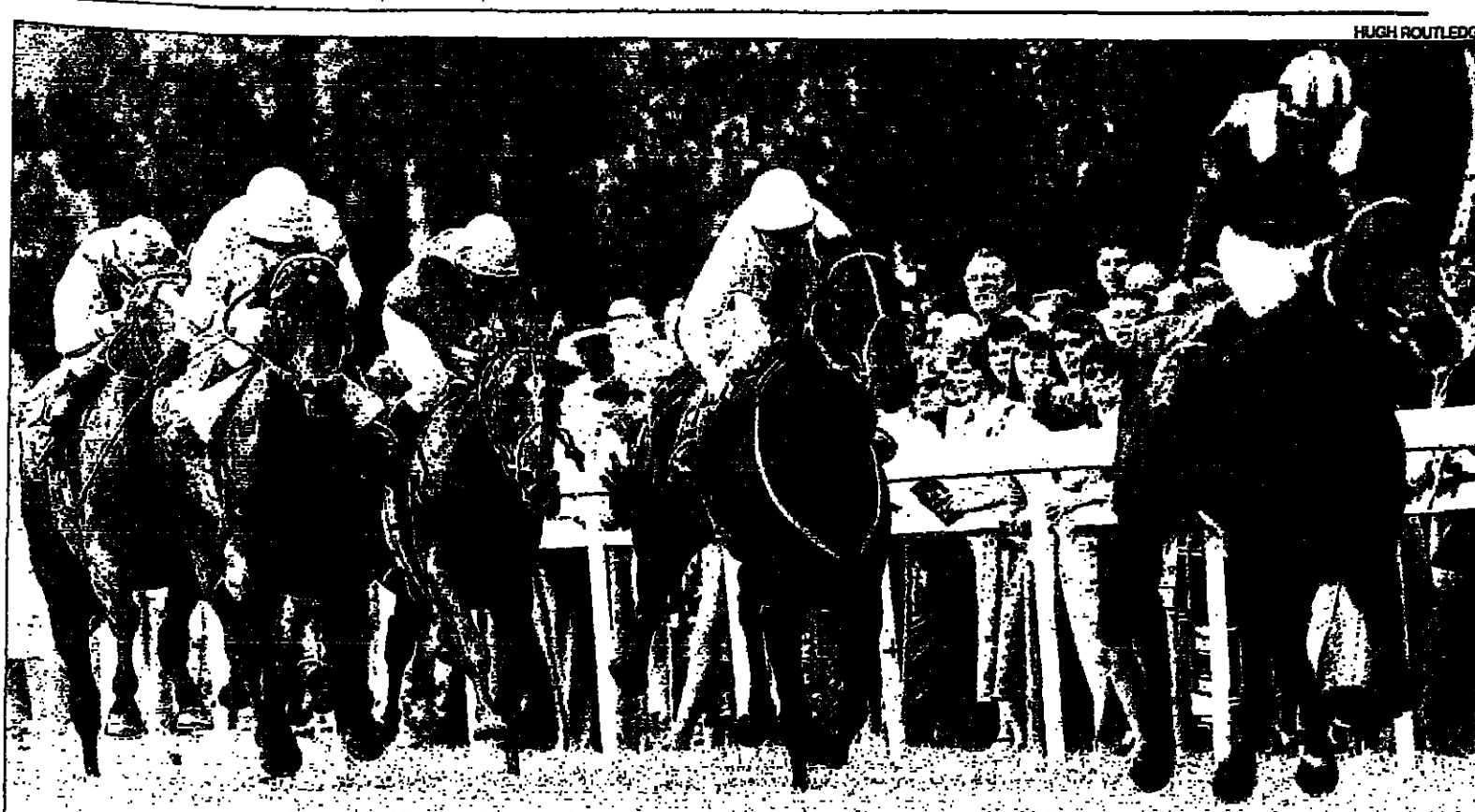
The National Lottery is blamed for the levy on horserace betting having fallen to £48 million in 1995-96 — £7 million less than that forecast in October 1994, before the lottery began. The decline in revenue has meant a sum of more than £8 million of the Levy Board's reserves has been used to try to protect funding of racing.

Sir John Sparrow, chairman of the Levy Board, said the profit reductions announced in recent months by the big bookmakers "have made it clear that the industry is experiencing, in the effects of the National Lottery, the worst setback in its fortunes since betting shops were legalised in 1960."

Betting shops are closing at an unprecedented rate and their number fell from 9,500 to 9,000 during the year, Rodney Brack, the Levy Board's chief executive, said. The gloom has prompted Sir John to back the expected request from the British Horseracing Board for a further cut of 1.75 per cent in betting duty.

Given the lottery's effect, the annual report of the Tote, also published yesterday, is more encouraging. Turnover for the 12 months was a record £304 million, an increase of 12 per cent, and operating profit increased by 1.6 per cent to £10,939,000.

RACING: HANDICAPPER REACTS TO MISTAKE BY IMPOSING HEFTY RATING INCREASES



Fahim makes the most of the handicapper's error of judgment with a decisive victory at the Newmarket July meeting last week

Winners feel weight of authority

By JULIAN MISCAT

THERE is consolation in toiling as an official handicapper of racehorses. Others may enjoy a brief titter at your expense but you are assured of the last laugh, as connections of Fahim and Crown Court may be reflecting this morning.

Dominic Gardiner-Hill, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) handicapper, reacted sharply to having underestimated the ability of the two horses. Not so much blots as serious stains on the handicapper's record at Newmarket's July meeting last week. Gardiner-Hill took full account yesterday by raising Fahim and Crown Court to 11lb and 14lb higher marks respectively.

The two colts earned their original ratings when finishing first and third in a humble maiden race in June. However, their contest was far removed from the standard fare at Beverley.

Shelagh, subsequently landed a Sandown claimer by seven lengths and the fourth, Desert Frolic, has since rattled up a five-timer.

There has been abundant sympathy for Gardiner-Hill from racing professionals. "Even Jack Ramsden, who handicaps privately, had some nice words for me," Gardiner-Hill related yesterday. "I asked him how he would have treated the Beverley race and he told me he would have done exactly the same thing."

Given the good-natured but incessant ribbing, Gardiner-Hill might have been excused for taking a harsher line with

Fahim and Crown Court. "All handicappers have a sense of professional pride about their work," he said, "but even in a situation like this I try to remain objective. I believe the horses deserve their rises but I can't guarantee that they

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: WITHERKAY (3.05 Sandown Park)
Next best: Sous Le Nez (7.30 Doncaster)

won't win again next time. Both are the sort of progressive horses that can give us nightmares."

Fortunately, Gardiner-Hill, 32, does not appear to have suffered a crisis of confidence. Having computed privately

for eight years with conspicuous success, he has just completed his third year among a team of young BHB handicappers. "I can tell you I was feeling pretty sick after Crown Court hopped up, but the fact remains that the horses were not jumping up and down before he ran at Newmarket."

"Hindsight has clearly proved me wrong but this is a fresh week," he continued. "I have put it all behind me. It is always difficult when well-bred or expensively bought horses run at the smaller tracks. They can be rated anything between 75 and 105. The irony is that if it had happened at Salisbury on a quiet day, as opposed to Newmarket on a big day, no one would really have noticed. Everyone makes one howling mistake in a season and I

sincerely hope that mine is now done and dusted."

Handicapping horses has the same occupational hazards as working for the Inland Revenue. Never mind over-estimates, an accurate assessment is likely to provoke shrieks of indignation. Yet any undercoding the goose will be ruthlessly exploited by trainers.

The combined assets of experience and wisdom are no guarantee against infallibility. Even Geoffrey Gibbs, now in his retirement year, believed Luca Cumanini had borrowed something from the past when he muttered to Crown Court's trainer: "Glad to see you have not lost your touch." But Fahim's victory 48 hours later emphasised that Beverley had attracted a host of unusually talented runners on June 6.

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER
6.15 COMRADES 6.45 SCHOOL BOY (nap). 7.15 Half Inch. 7.45 Prince Danzig. 8.15 Frog. 8.45 Littlebell.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
8.15 FROG (nap).

GOING: FIRM
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.15 OVRINGDEAN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O fillies: £2,381; 5f 5yds) (4 runners)

1 5 COMRADES 6.15 Median 6.15
2 5 OVRINGDEAN MEDIAN 6.15 Median 6.15
3 5 SCHOOL BOY 6.15 Median 6.15
4 5 HALF INCH 6.15 Median 6.15

6.45 GO EVOING RACING WITH THE DAILY TELEGRAPH MAIDEN HANDICAP (£3,016; 5f 21yds) (5 runners)

1 5 COMRADES 6.45 Median 6.45
2 5 OVRINGDEAN MEDIAN 6.45 Median 6.45
3 5 SCHOOL BOY 6.45 Median 6.45
4 5 HALF INCH 6.45 Median 6.45
5 5 LITTLEBELL 6.45 Median 6.45

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160.5, 161.5, 162.5, 163.5, 164.5, 165.5, 166.5, 167.5, 168.5, 169.5, 170.5, 171.5, 172.5, 173.5, 174.5, 175.5, 176.5, 177.5, 178.5, 179.5, 180.5, 181.5, 182.5, 183.5, 184.5, 185.5, 186.5, 187.5, 188.5, 189.5, 190.5, 191.5, 192.5, 193.5, 194.5, 195.5, 196.5, 197.5, 198.5, 199.5, 200.5, 201.5, 202.5, 203.5, 204.5, 205.5, 206.5, 207.5, 208.5, 209.5, 210.5, 211.5, 212.5, 213.5, 214.5, 215.5, 216.5, 217.5, 218.5, 219.5, 220.5, 221.5, 222.5, 223.5, 224.5, 225.5, 226.5, 227.5, 228.5, 229.5, 230.5, 231.5, 232.5, 233.5, 234.5, 235.5, 236.5, 237.5, 238.5, 239.5, 240.5, 241.5, 242.5, 243.5, 244.5, 245.5, 246.5, 247.5, 248.5, 249.5, 250.5, 251.5, 252.5, 253.5, 254.5, 255.5, 256.5, 257.5, 258.5, 259.5, 260.5, 261.5, 262.5, 263.5, 264.5, 265.5, 266.5, 267.5, 268.5, 269.5, 270.5, 271.5, 272.5, 273.5, 274.5, 275.5, 276.5, 277.5, 278.5, 279.5, 280.5, 281.5, 282.5, 283.5, 284.5, 285.5, 286.5, 287.5, 288.5, 289.5, 290.5, 291.5, 292.5, 293.5, 294.5, 295.5, 296.5, 297.5, 298.5, 299.5, 300.5, 301.5, 302.5, 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OLYMPIC GAMES: SOUTH KOREANS PRESENT FIRST OPPOSITION FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO PRESERVE AMATEUR VALUES

British ready to stick out in the crowd

David Miller reports
from Atlanta on
the hockey teams
aiming to enhance
an impressive record

IF YOU were caught by the mood of Euro 96 and by England's performances, if you were lifted by the march of Tim Henman at Wimbledon, then be ready to shout for the Great Britain Olympic hockey teams, men and women, each with medal chances.

While some individual athletes are able to run and jump with the prospect of personal financial fortunes, hockey still represents the old-fashioned amateur ethic of Olympic competition: the dignity and satisfaction of participation, the possibility of honour and glory. Both British teams begin their pool matches this weekend, both against South Korea: the women on Saturday, the men on Sunday.

The men have an unusual incentive. The German manager of a four-star resort hotel in Tobago anxiously wondered what he might be facing when the men's team checked in two weeks ago, for time-zone and temperature acclimatisation before arrival here. Would there be similar furniture adjustment to that experienced by Cathay Pacific from the England footballers?

So mutually agreeable, however, did the visit prove to be that the manager has invited the squad, and their families, to return for a fortnight at his expense, should they win a medal in the Games. In an amateur sport, such an offer is unimaginable.

There is little appreciation back home of the world ranking of Britain's men, who, since the amalgamation of the home countries for Olympic competition after the Second World War, have won a silver medal in 1948, bronze in 1952 and 1984, were fourth in 1956 and 1960, won the gold medal in Seoul and in Barcelona were sixth: the position in which they are now ranked after the World Cup in 1994.

"I'd like to know any other sport that has stayed in the top six," Russell Garcia, the lone survivor from Seoul, said at a team reception yesterday. "We don't have the media attention since Seoul, but we're still there close to the top."

In a gruelling preparatory programme since the beginning of May, the team has played 20 matches, winning nine, drawing one and losing ten; the defeats were all at the hands of its main Olympic rivals, Australia, South Korea, Malaysia and Holland, who are in their preliminary pool of six, and Germany and



The Great Britain men's team in Atlanta will be striving to emulate the success of the 1988 side, above, which struck gold in Seoul

Pakistan, who are in the other pool. The top two from each qualify for the semi-finals.

Three tours were packed into seven weeks, interspersed with rigorous humidity training in special rubber wet suits that raise the body temperature and water loss to levels that will be encountered in Georgia's stifling summer climate.

The wet suits, which the England rugby squad used in preparation for the World Cup in South Africa last year and which make you look like a commando from a James Bond film, produce extreme conditions that can be dangerous. Inevitably, the stress of training and an excess of match-play took their toll. The squad was immensely fit but was losing too often.

"Our form was indifferent, because of fatigue and from playing the top teams so much," David Whittle, the team manager, said. Whittle, who was a player for 30 years and then manager of Havant, is a more humorous and less overtly confident personality than Roger Self, the successful manager in 1988. Whittle is optimistic that a recent relaxing spell, free of stick-work training, has enabled the squad to return to a mental

peak. "I think their resilience has carried them through a tough period," he said. "The programme was demanding, so we curtailed the training to ease the fatigue."

Nor does there seem to be any fall-out from the sudden resignation in May of David Whitaker, the longstanding coach from the Seoul campaign, who was brilliant when

An ankle injury has forced Robert Thompson, the centre forward, to withdraw from the Great Britain hockey team. He has been replaced by Jason Lee, of Old Loughtonians. Thompson, a member of the 1992 Olympic team, was injured during a training match.

present but increasingly found that his work enforced his absence. Jon Copp, a master at Marlborough College and the former assistant to Whitaker, became head coach without discernible ripples.

The question now is not so much whether the team is mentally ready than whether it can score sufficient goals not to be over-dependent on Calum Giles, the "rolling substitute" now permitted by reg-

ulations to come on specifically to take the strike on short corners. No one has succeeded since Kerly, with his 65 goals in 99 internationals.

"We've got to be more bloody-minded in the circle," Garcia said. He is semi-professional, having moved to Barcelona as a player-coach. "The other team [in Seoul] had more self-belief. Maybe we underestimate ourselves. We've had some feedback that our rivals think we're better than we do ourselves. Certainly, we're playing some good stuff." Let us hope so. Britain, and the Koreans, who won the last encounter between the sides 2-0 on May 9, will find out on Sunday.

The women, who won the bronze medal in Barcelona, are in a single group of eight, playing in a round-robin, the top two going direct to the final. The women's game has been an Olympic event only since 1980. Spain, Germany and Britain are the probable best from Europe, but Australia, Argentina and South Korea will take some stopping. Britain will be leaning on the experience of Karen Brown, Jill Adkins and Jane Sixsmith, all with over 100 caps, while another five will be making their second Olympic outing.

Athletes find no fun and games on arrival

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ATLANTA

THE cheating has begun at the Centennial Games in Atlanta. Drugs? Vote-rigging in the gym? False entry times? No — queue-jumping was the sport, the culprits among the hopping mad who had arrived in Georgia to find the southern state unprepared for its busiest day so far.

There will be no punishment for the guilty among the 3,000 or so arrivals who succumbed to a bout of on-the-road rage. They had, after all, suffered enough, many having travelled halfway around the world only to find the biggest human traffic jam of their lives — a four-hour passage from arrivals hall to accreditation, followed by a three-hour tour of discovery in coaches, driven by a legion of lost drivers from out of town.

If things were bad for Claudia Poll, the swimmer from Costa Rica ranked No 2 in the world at 200 metres and 400 metres freestyle, who fell asleep in the accreditation hall at the airport like a stranded holiday-maker, then spare a thought for the fighters from Papua New Guinea. They had set out on a world tour about 40 hours before, arriving in Georgia from Port Moresby via Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney, Fiji, Hawaii and Los Angeles, to be greeted by a smiling volunteer who handed them a ticket like those you see at the cheese counter in supermarkets. The number of their place in the queue for an accreditation pass was an ominous 666. The number on the scoreboard read 57.

Duncan Lange, coach to Danyon Loader, the butterfly and distance freestyle swimmer from New Zealand, was encouraged to jump the queue by another volunteer, who "found some smaller [numbered] tickets". "Thank God for that," Lange said. "If I can jump 6.80 to 6.90 metres in practice, I will go to Atlanta," she told a radio station in Germany.

Drechsler tore a knee ligament in May. The injury healed, but the adjacent muscle is not yet at full strength. "I will not go to Atlanta as a tourist," the athlete from the former East Germany said. "If I go, I want to fight for medals."

Against the wishes of Israel, the first Palestinian team in Olympic history will

Making money not quite the game it seemed

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

The Varsity restaurant had a kinda neat idea and made up some kinda cute little badges. Five rings, like the Olympic rings, right, only onion rings, giddy? And the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games pounced.

You might think that the Olympic rings are a symbol of international amity, or just great sport, but we're talking logo here. A lot of people have paid a lot of money to carry the rings on their products and these five onion rings represented something they call "ambush marketing".

The Varsity, under duress, got rid of its unsold onion-ring badges; they can still sell badges that show chilli dogs and fries. This is, of course, an Olympic morality play.

As I write these words from Atlanta, the home of a rather famous sticky brown drink, one with non-onion, non-parasitised Olympic rings all over its cans, the air is heavy with money. Yet there is also a cloud hanging over the city — a literal cloud that masks the tips of the loftier buildings and a similar, invisible cloud of embarrassment.

It is accepted wisdom that the English are equivocal about money — snobbishly embarrassed, hypocritically avaricious — while Americans are contemptibly voracious but refreshingly free from double standards. No longer. The United States goes into the biggest, brashiest and richest Olympic Games in history in an uncharacteristic mood of head-in-hands agonising about money.

"Is anyone worth \$112 million?" the newspaper *USA Today* asks on its lead story, as it greets the announcement that Alonzo Mourning has been offered that sum to play basketball for seven years for Miami Heat. Hell, that ain't so much. Shaquille O'Neal will, unlike Mourning, be strutting his stuff for the Dream Team, the bunch of multimillionaires who make up the United States basketball team. He is likely to be offered \$15 million over seven years by Orlando Magic. O'Neal is probably the richest Olympian in Atlanta.

Now, you can make a decent case for these people, saying that they earn their money by honest sweat and genuine excellence, and they are worth rather more to you and me than the czars of business who routinely award themselves head-spinning bonuses; but athletes are public figures, playing kid's games for a fortune, and the United States is filled with a sudden embarrassment about them. Especially as these Games already have a sickness, a

glossiness and a glamour that we have not seen before.

Two new sports make this plain. Beach volleyball, with its "lifestyle" associations, and its game-within-a-game — the tackiest sunglasses competition — is a marketing dream. Note also the odd inclusion of mountain biking as an Olympic sport. Bikes are consumer durables and another window of opportunity for the smart entrepreneur.

Everywhere during the phoney war before the Games begin, we see a celebration of the new, the glossy and the slick — the latest craze and the dollars to make from it — and yet, right on the verge of the opening ceremony, there is a yearning for something else. No, not for the hypocrisy of "amateurism", but at least for a freedom from money and the guilts and envies that pervade the stuff.

My information pack from the British Olympic Association bears a picture of a man with snow-white hair and a truly wonderful black moustache. He has a sword in his gauntleted right hand and, in his left, the reins of a plunging horse. The horse is going crazy, but Baron Pierre de Coubertin (for it is he) still looks cool.

This, of course, was the founder of the modern Games, which began a century back. Hunt through the programme of the Centennial Games in Atlanta and you can still find de Coubertin's favourite event, hanging on by its fingernails. It has been revamped and shortened, but it remains unwatchable, nonsensical, un-telly-friendly and absolutely vital.

This is the modern pentathlon, ride-shoot-fence-swim-run, a mad romantic dream of a mad romantic baron. Mike Costigan, the leading pentathlete in the United States, earned \$24,000 last year. Is he the most important American at the Games?

Graf accepts medical advice to withdraw



Graf: knee injury

STEFFI GRAF, the Wimbledon champion, has pulled out of the German team because of a knee injury. A medical examination has revealed a ligament problem and Graf's doctor has advised her to take a break of several weeks from training and competitive tennis or risk the condition becoming chronic.

Graf took part in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984, when tennis was a demonstration sport, won in Seoul in 1988 and took the silver medal in Barcelona four years ago, when she was beaten by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, her opponent in the Wimbledon final earlier this month. She was shortlisted for the honour of carrying the German flag at the opening ceremony on Friday, recognition of her achievement in winning 20 grand slam titles, only four less than the

record-holder, Margaret Court, of Australia.

Germany's Olympic long jump champion, Heike Drechsler, denied yesterday that she had withdrawn from the Games, saying she hoped to recover from a knee injury in time to defend her title. Drechsler, 31, says she will give herself until July 28 to decide whether to compete. "If I can jump 6.80 to 6.90 metres in practice, I will go to Atlanta," she told a radio station in Germany.

Drechsler tore a knee ligament in May. The injury healed, but the adjacent muscle is not yet at full strength. "I will not go to Atlanta as a tourist," the athlete from the former East Germany said. "If I go, I want to fight for medals."

Against the wishes of Israel, the first Palestinian team in Olympic history will

compete under the name Palestine. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has rejected a request by Israel's Government to block the use of the designation. Israel contends the name improperly introduces politics into the Games.

The Palestinian Olympic Committee was recognised by the IOC in 1993. "The designation of Palestine is perfectly consistent with the designation used by the United Nations," the IOC director-general, Francois Carrard, said. "That's our position and we stand by that position. We do not want to enter into any kind of political issue."

The IOC has also rejected a request from Eritrea, the only member of the United Nations outside the Olympic movement, to send two cyclists to compete in Atlanta.

SQUASH

Russell eyes last four after defeat of Amjad

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN CAIRO

JOHN RUSSELL shed his usual coloured headscarf to get past Paul Peters, of Australia, in the third round of the world junior men's championship here and yesterday he added his eye-protecting goggles to the scrappier before unexpectedly squeezing past Amjad Khan, of Pakistan, to reach today's quarter-finals.

"I don't know what else I can shed to get to the semi-finals," Russell, 16, from New Eltham in South London, said after recovering from 2-1 and 7-2 down in the fourth game to beat Amjad, the No 5 seed and Asian junior champion, 9-7, 5-9, 5-9, 10-9, 9-7 in 80 minutes.

"It was the choke of the championship by Amjad," David Pearson, the England coach, said. "John looked dead and buried at 2-7 with Amjad cruising the court and hitting wonderful winners from the

back corners." Then Amjad hit a cross-court drop into the tin after Russell had ripped off his goggles and flung them over the back wall. Astonishingly, Amjad then slipped from a fluid performance that had caused observers to begin reassessing his chances of taking the title to a hesitancy that produced seven unforced errors in eight rallies.

"He suddenly became tired and nervous," Russell said, "I slowed the game down and floated the ball a bit to his back hand and he started hitting the tin. In the fifth, I did the same thing and was 8-4 up in no time." The result means that Pakistan have failed to get a player into the individual quarter-final for the first time since the event began 16 years ago.

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RIFLE SHOOTING

McAllister leaves little to Chance

PETER CHANCE, who out-pierced the top long-range marksmen at Bisley on Monday, came close to winning the match rifle championship yesterday, scoring 965.94 for sixth place (four rifle shooting correspondent writes).

Jim McAllister, of the National Rifle Club of Scotland and a top-liner for many years, took the Hopson Challenge Cup with 971 points out of a possible 1,025, with 105 shots over the four days in the 1,200-yard V-bull. He was two points in front of John Powell, of Sussex, with Nick Tremlett, of Windsor, third.

Chance won the Ogden Cup for the top tyro in the championship and also took the Fremantle Challenge Bowl for the 1,200-yard aggregate, two points ahead of Powell and Clint Dahlstrom, of Canada.

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FOOTBALL

Lee demands talks on shares sell-off

BY DAVID MADDOCK

FRANCIS LEE, the Manchester City chairman, has demanded that a secretive potential investor in the club must reveal his identity before he will agree to further negotiations over a potential sale of shares.

Lee revealed yesterday that he had been approached through a third party with proposals for a significant investment from Middle Eastern sources. However, after initial discussions with the intermediary, Lee has called a halt to talks until he is provided with further information. Lee said: "As a public company, the club has an obligation before entering into detailed negotiations with any potential investor to identify on whose behalf the approach is being made."

Manchester United attempts to complete the pro-

tracted signing of Karel Poborsky, the Czech Republic midfielder player, failed yesterday when Slavia Prague demanded an increased fee for the player. Maurice Watkins, the United legal director, had agreed a £3.5 million fee over the weekend, but Slavia appear to have gone back on that agreement.

Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, has continued his preparations for the club's first season in the FA Carling Premiership by signing Christian Dailly from Dundee United. Derby have paid an initial £500,000 for the Scotland Under-21 midfielder player, who was out of contract at Tannadice.

Graeme Souness, the new Southampton manager, is poised to make Eyal Berkovitz, the 19-year-old midfielder, his first signing.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Go for gold in Atlanta

Your chance to win a VIP trip to the Olympics



The Times has teamed up with Kodak to offer you the chance to win the trip of a lifetime — a VIP holiday for two to the Olympic Games in Atlanta. The prize includes five nights with breakfast at the luxurious Stouffer Renaissance Hotel, £500 spending money, entry to the athletics and basketball finals and the closing ceremony. The athletics finals include the women's high jump, men's javelin, men's and women's 4x100m, men's and women's 1500m and 4x400m and the men's 5000m.

Throughout the six days, expert couriers will be on hand to guide you in Atlanta. Our winner and his/her partner will get a Kodak Olympic pack containing a cooler bag, T-shirt and a Kodak Fun Sports waterproof camera, and 10 rolls of Kodak Gold Ultra film.

Twenty runners-up will win an Olympic pack and six rolls of Kodak Gold Ultra film.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to be among the 80,000 spectators at this year's Olympic Games, call our competition hotline with your answer to this question:

Which one of the following has won Olympic gold?
a) Colin Jackson
b) Steve Backley
c) Daley Thompson

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight on Sunday July 21. The winner must hold a valid 10-year passport. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.



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Dream of impossible treble lingers on



If Severiano Ballesteros wins at Royal Lytham and St Annes, he will join Harry Vardon as the only golfer to win three Open Championships at the same venue since 1872. John Hopkins believes that there is more hope than expectation of the Spaniard triumphing again this week.

I man has seven ages, then Severiano Ballesteros seems to have had 14. Two of the greatest occurred at Royal Lytham and St Annes when he won the Open Championships of 1979 and 1988. Now, in July 1996, Ballesteros is in his last age as a professional golfer. He hopes for one final hurrah at Lytham. Form and reason, however, suggest that he has no chance.

Nobody who saw Ballesteros in 1979 can forget him for the sheer sense of enjoyment that he created. It was infectious as Asian flu. He was on a crusade and swept up everyone with his joyous enthusiasm. No windmill was too big for him to tilt his lance at it. The man closest to him at that time remembers it all as if it were yesterday. "He did not care what the hell he had done with the ball so long as he could find it and hit it with a good whack," Dave Musgrove, his caddy, recalled this week. "He never wasted any time wondering about what he had done with his swing. All that mattered was what he was going to do with his next shot."

"It was great fun really. Often he ran after it. I couldn't keep up with him. It was impossible. He'd get to the ball, look around for me and when I arrived he'd say 'where you been?' It is most important that you keep up." I'd just laugh. Well, you had to laugh didn't you, otherwise you'd go barmy in this game."

Agreeing everyone and everything — and even Ballesteros, who may be one of the few golfers to have been



Sergio Garcia, the young Spaniard, watches yesterday as Ballesteros re-enacts the chip at the 18th that sealed his win in 1988. Photographers: Ian Stewart

gifted with real genius is spared its scything qualities. This week he appears almost a shadow of his former self. His face is fuller, his eyes darker, his voice quieter. He resembles a man who has witnessed a series of accidents. He will never be as he was in 1979 and 1988.

"When I watch film of the 1979 Open, I see if I can pick up any details," Ballesteros said in a muted voice that was perfectly in keeping with his sombre, almost sad, present demeanour. "I am not doing it to see if I can inspire myself. I am proud to see what I did before. I am sad that I can't be youthful for ever, but nobody can do that. Everybody is going to die. That is the only truth in life, so you can't do anything about it."

Yet there would be no more popular champion this year than the 39-year-old Spaniard. To win again would be a thrill that is difficult to describe," Ballesteros said.

"Yes, I can win once more. I am sure I can. To do it would

be fantastic. My boys have not seen me win." He stopped as if remembering that, in June, Tom Watson won for the first time for nine years and was the first time his son, Michael, had seen him in victory.

On present form, Ballesteros has no more chance of winning than seven-eighths of the field — and that may be being optimistic. He has played ten events in Europe and his best result is twelfth. A brief foray to the United States resulted in his withdrawing

from The Players' Championship with a bad back and when he finished 43rd in the Masters, it was only the second time he had beaten the cut this year. The very warmth of his brothers in support of him, so obvious in 1979 and 1988, has diminished, too.

Furthermore, the technical deficiencies that have dogged his career still remain. Though to the inexperienced eye Ballesteros's swing is a thing of rhythm and beauty, to the expert it starts with too much weight on the left foot that leads, as it almost always does, to a reverse pivot and his clubhead is closed at the top of the backswing. It is easier for Ballesteros to shape a shot from the fairway or the rough than it is for him to smash a drive far and straight down a fairway.

No one inspires such loyalty, such impossible dreams, so many moments when reality is replaced by fantasy as Ballesteros, unless it was Arnold Palmer being urged on by Americans when it was

clear that his time had long since gone. From the tee and fairway, Ballesteros is not as he was, but the magic he was always able to summon up on and around the greens still remains. There is always a chance that he will chip in, hole some putts or send his ball spinning into the hole from a bunker. This is what won him his two Opens here and this part of his play could be the foundations from which to launch one last hurrah this week.

Much has been made this week of the flag hanging from the window of a house by the 1st green that urged Ballesteros on in 1988. Severiano, *gana por favor* it read, the message etched in white letters on a blood red sheet. It is there again this year, a visual reminder to one of the game's greatest talents. So, however, is another sign that reads "For Sale". The owners of this house have decided to move on, just as it appears has Ballesteros's singular talent.



"Please win, Severiano" read the banner in 1988 and Ballesteros obliged. Can he do so again?

ROWING

Britain banks on experience

EXPERIENCE could provide the key for Britain's challenge in the world championships in Scotland next month (Mike Rosewell writes). Eight of the ten boats that will form Britain's senior team in the event

from August 5 to 11 have been announced and all bar two boast previous internationals.

The British lightweight men's eight, winners of the gold medal at the world championships in 1994 and silver

medal-winners in 1995, have eight past internationals on board, including four medal-winners. Two of them, Chris Baines and Carl Smith, hold 15 world championship medals between them, including six gold.

Alicia Brownless and Jane Hall, distraught after missing Olympic qualification in the lightweight double sculls, have returned to their more familiar rowing discipline in a lightweight coxless pair.

Sue Appleboom missed a world lightweight medal by one place in 1995, due more to the wash from a television launch than her own shortcomings. She plans to put the record straight this year and Tony James, her coach, said: "I have not seen any light-weight in Europe this year that she cannot beat."

TEAM: Men: Coxless Four: Bob, M Johnson (North County), 2, M McArthur (North County), 3, G McKenna (North County), 4, S. Brown (North County), 5, D. Chung (North County), 6, J. Williams (London), 7, A. Ball (London), 8, M. Lonsdale (North County), 9, J. Smith (North County), 10, J. Smith (North County), 11, J. Smith (North County), 12, J. Smith (North County), 13, J. Smith (North County), 14, J. Smith (North County), 15, J. Smith (North County), 16, J. Smith (North County), 17, J. Smith (North County), 18, J. Smith (North County), 19, J. Smith (North County), 20, J. Smith (North County), 21, J. Smith (North County), 22, J. Smith (North County), 23, J. Smith (North County), 24, J. Smith (North County), 25, J. Smith (North County), 26, J. Smith (North County), 27, J. Smith (North County), 28, J. Smith (North County), 29, J. Smith (North County), 30, J. Smith (North County), 31, J. Smith (North County), 32, J. Smith (North County), 33, J. Smith (North County), 34, J. 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Innocent viewer serves too long a sentence

Time to draw a line in the sand. A futile gesture, I realise — any minute now an arty camera operator will come along, hire a wind machine and film my line being slowly filled by scudding grains of sand. Nothing like a bit of scudding to pad out a documentary, is there?

But then I shall draw my line again and absolutely insist on no more long documentaries. In the past week we have endured *Gordonstoun* (two hours ten minutes), *Arden: Stories My Country Told Me* (three hours, 30 minutes) and last night's *True Stories* (two hours and 25 minutes). Plans to watch a cherished video-tape of *Hoop Dreams* (three hours of basketball) have been placed on indefinite hold. Life is too short.

Olga Budashevskaya and Kevin Sim, directors of *True Stories: Crime of the Wolf* (Channel 4) had set out to make a work of art rather than a documentary. You could tell

that from the frequency with which snow scudded across the frozen steps. What they actually delivered was a series of undeniably striking cinematic images, which collectively, however, became pastiche. This was a shame, because it was clear that a huge amount of work had gone into making it.

Abandoning everything that smacked of documentary convention, the pair ambitiously adopted the complex narrative structure of the epic Russian novel. They succeeded — after half an hour I still had only the vaguest idea of what was going on. An elderly woman approached (very slowly, of course) a plump gentleman sitting on a park bench. "Hello... Leonid... Gregorovich..." Oh, get on with it.

Slowly, then, unless you were there you have no idea how slowly things became a little clearer. This was the story of Sergei Maduev,

born of a Korean mother and a Chechen father, whose life of crime began at the age of five and which led directly to the Crosses Prison in St Petersburg. He faced charges of murder, "banditism" and numerous counts of armed robbery.

But it was also the story of Natasha Voronova, the lawyer who fell in love with Maduev while she was preparing the case against him and who eventually smuggled in a gun to help him escape. The escape failed, Maduev was beaten to a pulp by the prison guards and Voronova was sentenced to serve seven years behind thick spectacles in a women's penal colony.

By now we had seen enough of Maduev to realise that, as well as good cheekbones, he did have a certain arrogant charm. Or rather I think we had. The problem was that for long periods it was unclear what we were watching. Were these the



Matthew Bond

characters themselves or actors? Was the action contemporaneous or re-created? I have no idea and the subtleties gave me no clue.

Blame for much of the long-windedness must lie with Leonid Proshkin, a man born with a gift for melodrama and a tendency to talk to himself on slow-moving trains. "I am senior investigator of very special cases under the prosecutor general of Russia," he an-

nounced, as the train rattled over a couple of dozen sets of points. He was also the man who fearfully recruited Voronova to this team: "The fact that she turned out to be a criminal and a traitor was a terrible shock."

Proshkin's wife apparently thought her husband had also fallen a little in love with Maduev. So too had Budashevskaya and Sim — in two hours and 25 minutes his victims barely got a look in while he banged eloquently on about being born "with fear in his soul" or the fact that he had "never been in love with any woman for more than five minutes". When the death sentence was eventually confirmed, I, too, felt regret — but for the two hours and 25 minutes that I would not be seeing again.

There was more artful scudding (said this time) in *Dawa to Dusk* (BBC1), which was something of a turn-up as the film was only half-an-hour long anyway. What was

even more of a surprise was that, after only two programmes, the innovative, dawn-to-dusk, one-location format had been abandoned. Instead, Jonathan Scott had come up with the less than novel idea of flying around Namibia in a private plane for four days in search of photogenic wildlife. Doing an Anenborough, I think it's called.

What remains a good plan, however, is recruiting local wildlife experts to act as guides. Of the four we met last night, my favourite was Juliana Ziegler, a game young German who thought nothing of diving headlong into the hot sands of the Namib desert to catch a beetle and even less of pursuing a side-winding adder armed only with... a soup-ladle. "What happens if you get bitten?" asked Scott. "I don't."

Finally, *Law Women* (BBC1)

came to an enjoyable close with a ferocious display of name-dropping from Stacey Tasker, deputy governor of Maidstone prison. The Birmingham Six, one of the Guildford Four, the Cambridge rapist, Jeremy Bamber, Dennis Nilsen... she'd known them all. "I went to Madame Tussaud's recently and the Chamber of Horrors was full of people I knew."

The regime at Maidstone will have appeared too liberal for some (one inmate had actually ragged his cell, while others attacked the tabloid press from the safety of their exercise bikes) and Tasker was adamant that she would resign if hanging was ever brought back. But we were left in no doubt that she knew how to get tough. With an imperious flourish of her pen, Black Forest gâteau (with cream) was removed from the Christmas Day menu.

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

REVIEW

CHOICE

Survival Special: Mountain Gorilla — A Shattered Kingdom (ITV, 8.00pm)

Bruce Davidson's documentary started as a celebration of the African mountain gorilla and turned into something darker. Davidson has been filming gorillas in the Virunga National Park in Zaire for eight years. Much of the footage comes from the early part of the period and follows four brother gorillas as they mourn the death of their father and go about their business of eating (an activity which takes up one third of their day), mating and surviving. Then the civil war in Rwanda sends hundreds of thousands of refugees across the border to settle in camps on the edge of the park. The gorillas' forest habitat is plundered by the refugees for firewood and opened up to poachers. After a decade with no killings, eight gorillas are killed in one year. Among them, poignantly, are the stars of Davidson's film.

Ellen: Shake, Rattle and Rumble (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

The American comedian Ellen DeGeneres has the best smile on television. If her sitcom's batteries threaten to run down (which is not very often) all she has to do is flash her perfect white teeth and the electricity is immediately restored. As her fans will remember, DeGeneres plays a character called Ellen who is in her thirties, romantically unattached and runs a bookshop. In the new series she owns the bookshop but the rest is as before. The smile is needed more than ever when a doctor cousin turns up unexpectedly in the middle of an earthquake (we are in Los Angeles, by the way) and the said quake reduces the bookstore to rubble. Ellen's friends try to help in an unhelpful sort of way, but the smile remains, even if the teeth start to become a little clenched.

Inside Story: Stalking the Stalkers (BBC1, 9.30pm)

While Britain still has no laws against stalking, in California it has been a criminal offence since 1990 and carries a prison sentence of up to four years. The Los Angeles Police Department has a special unit assigned to stalking and the film is a record of its work. In the entertainment capital of America the stars tend to be a target, and a sit-com actress tells how a stalker finally forced her to move home. But most stalking is domestic, typically a former spouse or lover (usually not who will not let go). The most striking case is of a woman who has been stalked for 19 years. And you have to say that the law has not done much to help her. A prison sentence and a court order have failed to shake off her harasser, who continues to watch her every move from an apartment across the street.

Enter Achilles (BBC2, 9.40pm)

Here are men behaving very badly indeed. *Enter Achilles*, the television version of a stage work by Lloyd Newson and his DV8 Physical Theatre, promises to be the most controversial part of the BBC2 season of contemporary British dance. The post-warist scheduling is deliberate. The piece is danced, acted, sung and spoken by an eight-man company and takes place mainly in a pub. It is about the worst forms of male excess, drinking, fighting and a loutish camaraderie that waves two fingers to the rest of society. Particularly shocking is the abuse and mutilation of a woman, and the fact that she is only an inflatable doll does not make it any better. And yet *Enter Achilles* has style, and not a little wit, and it has been fluently transcribed by its Dutch director, Clara van Gool. Peter Waymark

Allec is entertained (7.30pm)

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6.00am GMTV (1333785)

9.25 The Real Ghostbusters (i) (6003562)

9.50 Home and Away (7171456) 10.20 News (6557088) 10.25 HTV News (6553669)

10.30 FILM: Between Two Brothers (1982) with Michael Brandon and Pat Harrington. Drama following the lives of two brothers. Directed by Robert M Lewis (8616572)

12.20pm HTV News (Teletext) (2389658)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (8893036)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (9878727) 1.25 Coronation Street (i) (Teletext) (5021833) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (6177127)

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5.10 A Country Practice (s) (7642291)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (51708)

6.00 Home and Away (i) (Teletext) (328104)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (583307) (885901)

7.00 The Mids Touch: Party Time. Last in the series of this gameshow (Teletext) (1340)

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7.00 The Mids Touch: Party Time. Last in the series of this gameshow (Teletext) (1340)

CHOICE

6.00am GMTV (1333785)

9.25 The Real Ghostbusters (i) (6003562)

9.50 Home and Away (7171456) 10.20 News (6557088) 10.25 HTV News (6553669)

10.30 FILM: Between Two Brothers (1982) with Michael Brandon and Pat Harrington. Drama following the lives of two brothers. Directed by Robert M Lewis (8616572)

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12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (8893036)

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CRICKET 42

YORKSHIRE BLOCK
NORTHANTS' BID
TO REGAIN LEAD

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 17 1996

CYCLING 45

DANE INCREASES TOUR
ADVANTAGE WITH
PEAK PERFORMANCE

American to vary strategy according to conditions in Open driving test

Daly displays defence evidence

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE intriguing thought that John Daly could win the Open Championship again and become the first man since Tom Watson in 1983 to defend his title successfully began to surface yesterday as another glorious summer's day drew slowly to a close at Royal Lytham and St Annes. Stranger things have happened by far than that the man who won his first major championship as an alcoholic and his second as a teetotaler should add a third this week.

Conventional wisdom has it that Daly, on his first visit to this part of Lancashire, should scarcely have a chance in the 125th Open because his driving is not accurate on a course where a fair share of the 185 bunkers are deliberately positioned to catch errant strokes from the tee.

It is felt, furthermore, that Daly has neither the patience to cope with, nor sufficient knowledge of, the intricacies that make the course such a forbidding test, particularly in the prevailing northwest wind. Never mind that history weighs against him, because it is the one Open course where an American professional has not yet won the Championship.

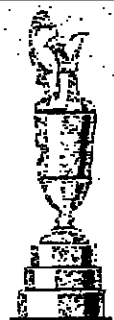
While it is true that Daly's driving is prodigiously long — and he reached the 542-yard 11th yesterday with a drive and a pitching wedge — it is not always as inaccurate as legend would have us believe. It is nothing like as wild as Severiano Ballesteros's here in 1979, for example.

Peter Oosterhuis, who finished second to Gary Player in the 1974 Open at this course, points out that two of the venues on which Daly has won tournaments in the United States have very little room for manoeuvre from the tee. "The BC Open is played on a very tight course," Oosterhuis said. "The Atlanta Country Club is another."

Whereas, at St Andrews last year, Daly usually knew each day what club he would use from each tee, this year, after only two practice rounds, he has realised that it will vary from day to day depending on the wind.

Taking counsel from Greg Ritz, his esteemed caddie, who worked for Curtis Strange when the Open was last held here, Daly will vary the clubs that he uses from the tees between his much-talked-about zero-iron, which has a loft of ten degrees, and his driver.

Ballesteros made a persua-



THE OPEN

In *The Times* tomorrow:
a 24-page colour guide to
the Open Championship

sive case earlier in the week that the secret of his success over the 6,892-yard course in 1979 and 1983 was because of his short game. "The greens are small and everyone is going to miss a lot of greens," Ballesteros said. "With the crosswinds, chipping and putting is always going to be important."



Faldo: early start

You needed only to see the way that Daly manufactured a pitch-and-run shot from near the 1st tee of the Old Course to the 18th green last year to realise that, beneath Daly's thicket of corn-coloured hair, lurks a man with a golfing brain and a dextrous pair of hands. Which leaves only his putting.

No less a putting wizard than Ben Crenshaw was recently moved to remark to Daly during a practice round at the US Open: "You know, you and I and Phil Mickelson have similar putting styles." Daly was surprised and flattered.

"Ben said we both have long backswings and use pretty much the same putters and that, when you have a long backswing, you tend to decelerate through the ball," Daly said. "He said I was taking it back too quick. Now I love the way I'm putting."

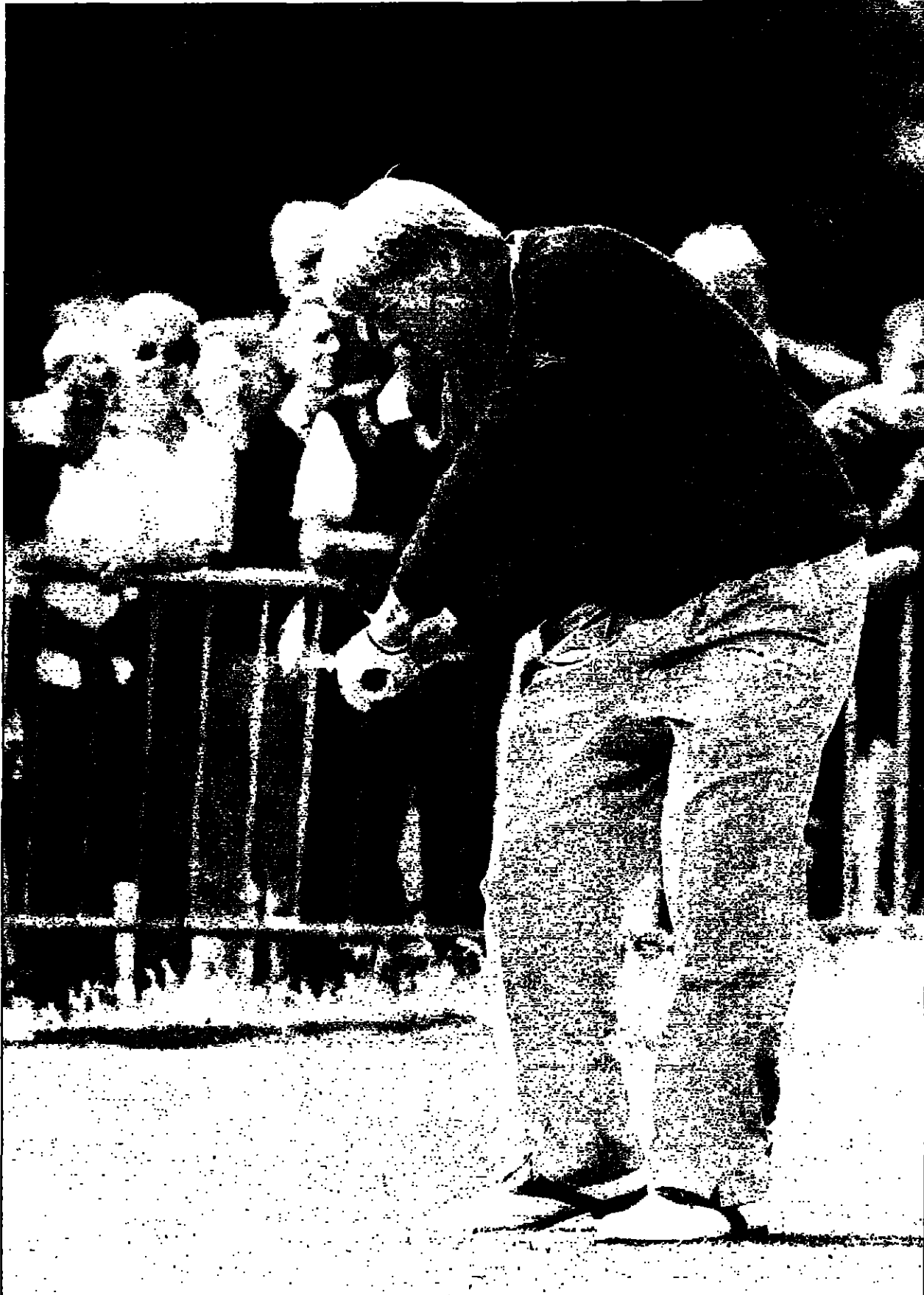
The wind that was blowing as Daly concluded a practice round yesterday was an unusual one. It was into his face instead of being at his back on the front nine. "In the normal wind here," Nick Faldo said, "you are playing the back nine into a left-to-right wind and it is very demanding. You have to make your score on the first 12 holes and then hang on to it."

Faldo heard the news of his starting time tomorrow — 7.33am — without batting an eyelid and despite the fact that he will probably have to get up at 5.30am. By happy coincidence, he was at Lytham's links at 7.30am yesterday, getting ready for his second practice over a course on which he feels completely at home, since it was where he won the English Amateur Championship in 1975 and defeated Tom Watson in the singles of the 1977 Ryder Cup.

No less happy was Lorne Duncan, the caddie who had been waiting in the car park on Monday, an activity known as roasting by caddies, hoping to find a player for whom to work.

"I've got Todd Hamilton's bag," Duncan reported with a smile on his face. "He's an American who plays a lot in Japan. He's a straight-down-the-middle sort of bloke and, I hope, a straight-down-the-fairway sort of golfer."

Rocco on a roll, page 45
Tee-off times, page 45



Daly's tee shots were the focus of attention as he practised at Royal Lytham and St Annes yesterday

Francis turns to Furlong in search for a star

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BIRMINGHAM City football supporters braced themselves yesterday, safe in the knowledge that Trevor Francis, the club's new manager, was about to announce his fourth, and most spectacular, summer signing. It was an open secret that he had been talking to John-Pierre Papin, the Bayern Munich and France striker, and St Andrew's was abuzz with expectation.

Mike Newell, of Blackburn Rovers, and Jan Aage Fjortoft, of Middlesbrough, had also been mentioned on the Midlands grapevine. The wait was becoming excruciating. "Who is it?" demanded an agitated Blues follower, who had camped in the club car park to get the news at first hand. "I have heard it's Mark Hughes. Is that right?"

Not quite... but close. Minutes later, Francis unwrapped his latest present: Paul Furlong, Hughes's erstwhile Chelsea team-mate and scorer of four goals last season.

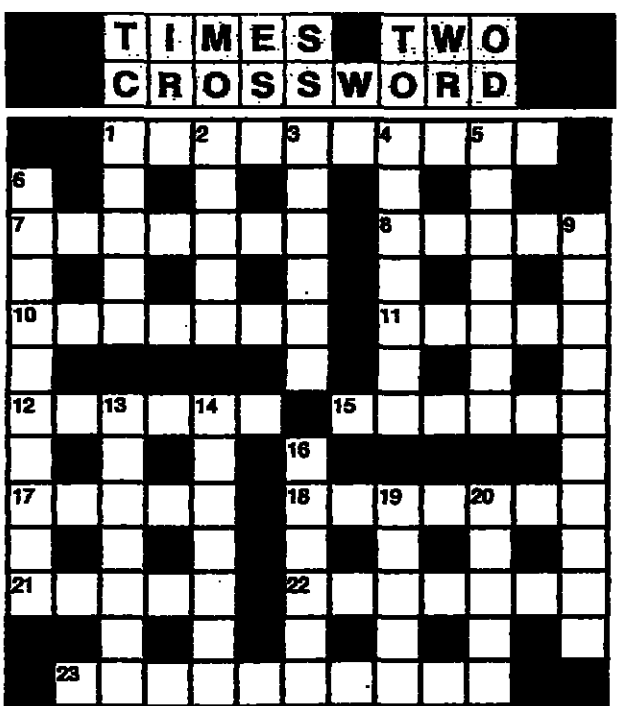
Furlong, 27, had been signed for £1.5 million, a record for the Nationwide Football League first division club, but £800,000 less than when he moved from Watford to Stamford Bridge in 1994. The arrival of Hughes a year ago and, more significantly, Roud Gullit's recent acquisition of Gianluca Vialli, had effectively terminated his career in West London.

For Francis, harsh economics finally killed off the prospective Papin deal. Having already bought Steve Bruce, Gary Ablett and Barry Horne, and consequently broken the club's wage structure, he — had little left of his £2 million budget.

A public appeal for funds to help finance the Papin project fell on deaf ears. "I think I took on something monstrous," Francis said. "Papin's wages were colossal. Right up with the big boys in the Premiership. I suppose it is like sending a list to Father Christmas. You never get everything you want."

Furlong, he stressed, was by no means bottom of his list. He said: "He can score goals, is very hard working and is a team player, the type the fans can relate to". Cheaper, too.

City takeover, page 44



ACROSS

- 1 Very drastic (remedy) (4,2,4)
- 7 Involve (one) in conflict (7)
- 8 Centre of Irish student (5)
- 10 Spanish warship (7)
- 11 The non-ordained (5)
- 12 Fleet of 10s (6)
- 15 Home of Odysseus (6)
- 17 Massacre of innocents (5)
- 18 Busy; already in use (7)
- 21 Of the kidneys (5)
- 22 In the distant past (4,3)
- 23 Portable timepiece (10)

SOLUTION TO No. 835

- ACROSS: 1 Top-notch 5 Isis 8 Abuse 9 New-laid 11 Fee 12 Timeable 13 Carver 15 House 18 Maladroit 19 RAF 20 Chassis 21 Allig 22 Hate 23 Trollope

- DOWN: 1 Traffic 2 Prude 3 Over the odds 4 Cinema 6 Soapbox 7 Skid 10 Without fail 14 Reliant 16 Defence 17 Mouser 18 Micah 19 Rhino

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 831

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS: 1 Elba 3 Ticking 5 Peacock 9 Mensa 10 Onrags 11 Lauding 13 Acrobatic 17 Elector 19 Rider 20 Divan 22 Infanta 23 Midhras 24 Sewn

- DOWN: 1 Expect 2 Brainwave 3 Take liberties 4 Cymru 5 Ion 6 Grange 7 Hot air 12 Incidence 14 Tariff 15 Seldom 16 Ordain 18 Tenor 21 Vat

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is P. Speake, Kiddleington, Oxford.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is C. D. Latham, Southern on Sea, Essex.

All flights subject to availability.

Australian sprinter faces ban from Games after positive test

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN ATLANTA

TWO leading international track and field athletes face being banned from the Olympics for positive drug tests only three days before the Games begin here on Friday. Iran, meanwhile, has dropped two members of its judo team and a weightlifter from its squad for the Games after they tested positive for unspecified banned substances.

As the controversy continues over the allegations, on the BBC *Panorama* programme, that 75 per cent of the track and field athletes competing here will have taken performance enhancing substances, an Australian sprinter and an Italian high jumper were protesting their innocence.

The high resolution mass spectrometer, which has been installed here for the Games, is expected to catch the largest number of cheating competitors since 1988, when ten people, including Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, tested positive. However, Dean Capobianco, a sprinter from Australia, and Antonella Bevilacqua, a high jumper from Italy, tested positive at pre-Games meetings in Europe.

Capobianco, 26, who was fifth at the 1993 world championships over 200 metres, has been found to have taken stanozolol, the same anabolic steroid that Johnson took in Seoul, when he was stripped of his 100 metres title.

Capobianco said: "I've certainly lost a lot of sleep over it since I was notified on June 25, although I know I am totally innocent."

Athletics Australia (AA), the country's governing body for the sport, said that an investi-

gation was under way. David Prince, the AA president, said: "We believe he is innocent until proven guilty."

Capobianco said of the alleged positive findings: "It is a big hurdle to overcome, being accused of taking a substance I have never ever taken in my life. In the meantime, I'm continuing to prepare to compete at the Games."

He is one of Australia's most eligible sporting bachelors. He posed naked for the *Black and White* magazine, an Olympic special issue in Australia, and featured on the front cover stretched out on the salt pans in Western Australia.

Capobianco faces a possible ban of four years if he cannot satisfy an inquiry that will be chaired by Bob Ellicott, the former Attorney General, and will be using Mishcon de

Reya, the lawyers used by Diane Modahl, when he launches his appeal.

The case of Bevilacqua is more complex. She tested positive for ephedrine, the stimulant used by Diego Maradona at the 1994 World Cup, at a meeting in Milan on May 4

Going for gold 44
Simon Barnes 44
Graf withdraws 44

and also at the Italian national championships on May 26. Small amounts of ephedrine occur in cold remedies and, as it is only a mild stimulant, use of the substance carries only a three-month ban.

Bevilacqua, who was sixth at the 1993 world championships, says that she had used a herbal medicine, but that the

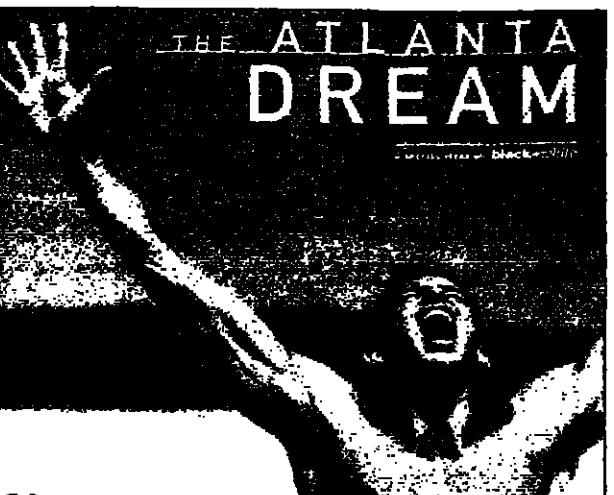
package containing the drink did not list ephedrine as one of its contents. An Italian magistrate agreed with the case put by the national athletics federation (Fidal) that the doping was unintentional.

Although the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) is insisting that she should serve her three-month ban, Fidal is hoping that she will still be allowed to compete at the Games. The International Olympic Committee has altered article five in its doping regulations, which allows countries to be lenient on athletes who are found to have taken the substance in error.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has reacted quickly to the unsubstantiated claims of Dr Mike Turner, a member of its medical committee, that 75 per cent of athletes at the Games are drug-takers. Dick Palmer, the BOA general secretary, said that the BOA dissociates itself from these allegations. "There is no evidence to support this," he said.

The British Athletic Federation yesterday backed away from taking out an injunction against the programme because it was satisfied that *Panorama* made clear that British competitors underwent the most rigorous series of tests.

In Iran, *Abrar*, a daily newspaper, reported that Abbas Abdi and Mohammad Reza Tolouei, the judo fighters, and Shaheen Nassirnia, a weightlifter, were dropped from the squad sent to Atlanta after they tested positive. Two Greco-Roman wrestlers were expelled from the team in April for similar violations.



Should Capobianco's positive drugs test be confirmed, he will face a rude awakening from his Atlanta dream

MIRACLE

I RENEWED MY CAR INSURANCE
AND DIDN'T GO OVERDRAW



"Money's tight.
So I rang around to get the best deal.
Ended up with AA Comprehensive.
It was great value and they'll
get me home if I crash.
That's important to a mum."

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